



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



Sunday, November 16, 2025 • 10:00am

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

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

November 16, 2025 • 10:00am

Today's lesson is the last Biblical story about Elijah, although it begins a cycle of miraculous stories that circulate in the Hebrew tradition for centuries. This includes the prediction that Elijah will return to bring the Messiah for the redemption of his people. Elijah is taken up into heaven in a windstorm from Bethel; before he ascends he gives Elisha his mantle. Through a series of miracles, Elisha is shown growing into prophetic power as the story moves from the mysterious back to the ordinary, reaffirming that it is the power of the One God, the "God of Elijah", who makes things happen.

We Gather as a Community of Faith

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

GATHERING MUSIC "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Phil Westcott, *tenor saxophone*

Refrain: Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home;
Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, coming for to carry me home?
A band of angels, coming after me, coming for to carry me home. [*Refrain*]

If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home;
tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to carry me home. [*Refrain*]

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down, coming for to carry me home;
but still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home. [*Refrain*]

Words and Music: African-American spiritual. Public Domain.

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

by Henrietta Stith Andrews

One: A word of encouragement came from prophet to people:

All: live a life that is full — build, plant, eat, love, multiply —

One: Pray for your communities;

All: keep God in the center of all that is.

One: We enter into worship today with hope in our hearts

All: for something happens here

that reminds us that we can live as God desires.

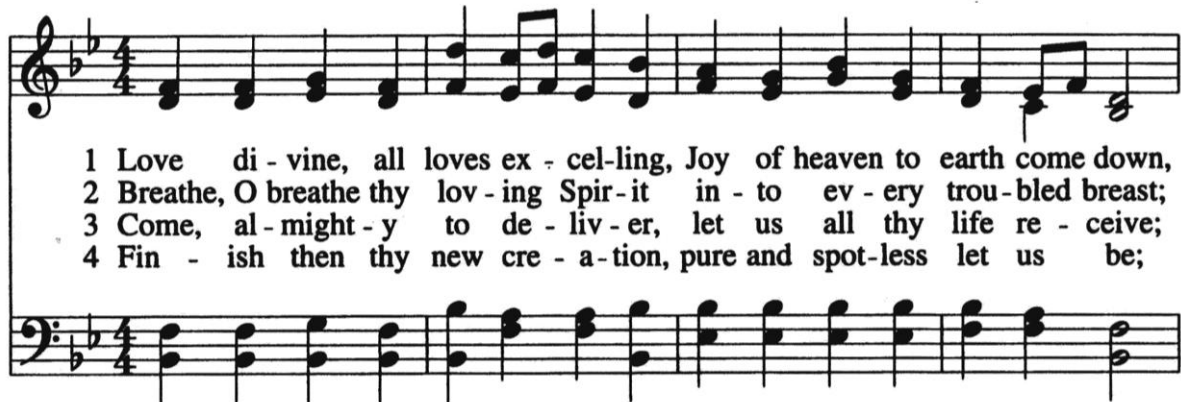
One: God has made a promise of faithfulness to us

All: and we can trust the promise.

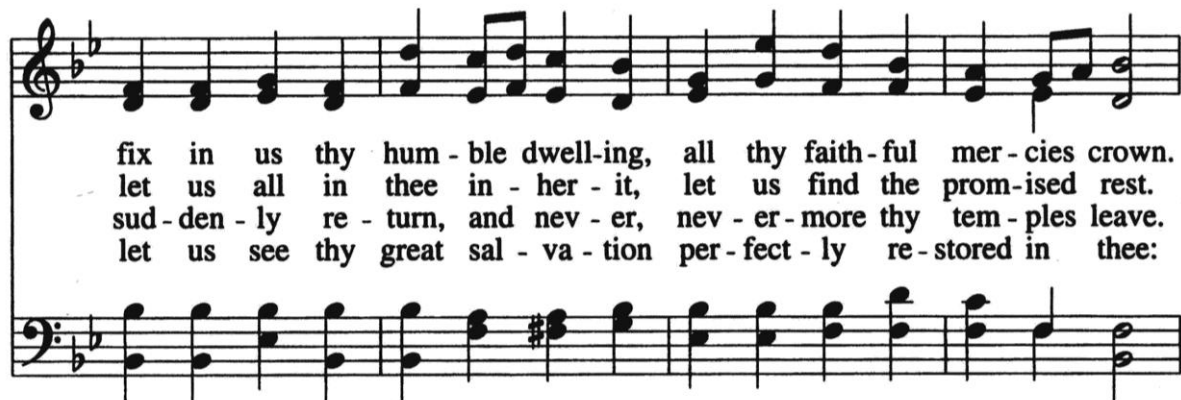
***SONG OF GATHERING** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (see page 3)

* = Please rise in body or in spirit.

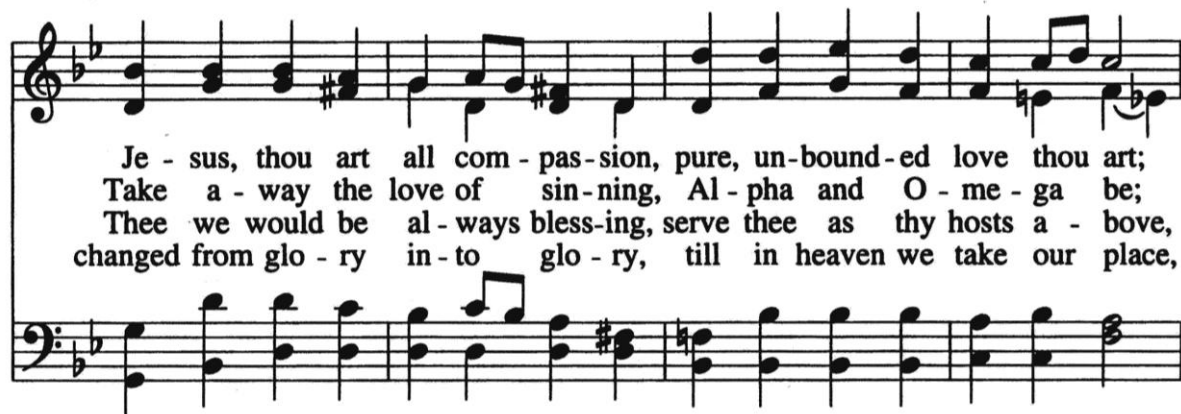
358 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel-ling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot-less let us be;



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell-ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.
 let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee:



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley. Music: John Zundel (BEECHER). Public Domain.

God of power,
without your love we can do nothing.
Give us a double share of your spirit
so that we can work together, across the world,
to bring about the end of poverty for all.
Teach us to follow the examples of the prophets,
to speak clearly alongside the poor
and to work tirelessly for the good of all people.
Through your Son Jesus Christ
who brought healing and love to the whole world.
Amen.

We Tell and Hear the Word

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

FOCUS LESSON 2 Kings 2:1–25, CEB

¹ Now the LORD was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a windstorm, and Elijah and Elisha were leaving Gilgal. ² Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, because the LORD has sent me to Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

³ The group of prophets from Bethel came out to Elisha. These prophets said to Elisha, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?”

Elisha said, “Yes, I know. Don’t talk about it!”

⁴ Elijah said, “Elisha, stay here, because the LORD has sent me to Jericho.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So they went to Jericho.

⁵ The group of prophets from Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master away from you today?”

He said, “Yes, I know. Don’t talk about it!”

⁶ Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here, because the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives and as you live, I won’t leave you.” So both of them went on together. ⁷ Fifty members from the group of prophets also went along, but they stood at a distance. Both Elijah and Elisha stood beside the Jordan River. ⁸ Elijah then took his coat, rolled it up, and hit the water. Then the water was divided in two! Both of them crossed over on dry ground. ⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “What do you want me to do for you before I’m taken away from you?”

Elisha said, “Let me have twice your spirit.”

¹⁰ Elijah said, “You’ve made a difficult request. If you can see me when I’m taken from you, then it will be yours. If you don’t see me, it won’t happen.”

¹¹ They were walking along, talking, when suddenly a fiery chariot and fiery horses appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went to heaven in a windstorm.

¹² Elisha was watching, and he cried out, “Oh, my father, my father! Israel’s chariots and its riders!” When he could no longer see him, Elisha took hold of his clothes and ripped them in two.

¹³ Then Elisha picked up the coat that had fallen from Elijah. He went back and stood beside the banks of the Jordan River. ¹⁴ He took the coat that had fallen from Elijah and hit the water. He said, "Where is the LORD, Elijah's God?" And when he hit the water, it divided in two! Then Elisha crossed over.

¹⁵ The group of prophets from Jericho saw him from a distance. They said, "Elijah's spirit has settled on Elisha!" So they came out to meet him, bowing down before him. ¹⁶ "Look," they told him, "there are fifty strong men among us, your servants. Please let them go and search for your master. Perhaps the LORD's spirit has picked him up and put him down on some mountain or in some valley."

Elisha said, "Don't send them." ¹⁷ They insisted until he became embarrassed and said, "Okay, send them." So they sent fifty men who searched for three days. But they couldn't find Elijah. ¹⁸ When these men returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to go?"

¹⁹ The citizens said to Elisha, "As you can see, sir, this city is in a good location, but the water is bad, and the land causes miscarriages."

²⁰ He said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put some salt in it." They did so. ²¹ Elisha then went out and threw salt into the spring. He said, "This is what the LORD has said: I have purified this water. It will no longer cause death and miscarriage." ²² The water has stayed pure right up to this very day, in agreement with the word that Elisha spoke.

²³ Elisha went up from there to Bethel. As he was going up the road, some young people came out of the city. They mocked him: "Get going, Baldy! Get going, Baldy!" ²⁴ Turning around, Elisha looked at them and cursed them in the LORD's name. Then two bears came out of the woods and mangled forty-two of the youths. ²⁵ From there Elisha went to Mount Carmel and then back to Samaria.

REFLECTIONS "Inheriting the Promise (and the Responsibility)"

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

We Respond to the Word

***SONG OF RESPONSE** "Abide with Me" verses 1, 3, 4 (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.**

(continued on page 7)

Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need your pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
 5 Hold now your cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens: Lord, with me a - bide!
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but your grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies:

When oth - er help - ers fail, and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who, like your - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Lord who chang - es not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if you a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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

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 "I Will Sing with the Spirit"

UPC Choir

*Chorus: I will sing with the spirit, I will sing with the spirit:
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (repeat)*

And I will sing with the understanding also: alleluia, alleluia! (repeat twice) [Chorus]

Words: 1 Corinthians 14:15. Music: John Rutter. © 1994 Oxford University Press. 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.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

adapted from a prayer from the Windsor Park United Church

Creator God,
revealed to us in Jesus of Nazareth,
present to us now through your Spirit,
we hear your call to care for the lost, the last, the little, and the least
that even through us your grace may touch their lives.

Loving God,
friend of outcast and stranger,
prejudiced in favor of those whom others reject,
we hear your call to care for those on the margins of our world:
unhoused people who seem lost in their own land,
refugees seeking asylum and new hope,
those excluded from our communities.
May our ministry offer dignity and respect to each and every person
and offer a place at table for the stranger and the outcast.

Living God,
known to us in the dance of community we call Trinity,
mediated to us through the common life of the church,
we hear your call to offer new communities of meaning and hope
to those who live in isolation and emptiness,
to those whose lives lack purpose and direction,
to those seeking a safe place to nurture them on their journey.
May our ministry offer the hope of deep and trusted friendship
and a way to find connectedness with those who share the journey of life.

God beyond all names,
whose presence lives in those you call by name,
whose presence goes before us into the lives of those to whom we minister,
we hear your call to serve in a variety of places.
We pray that each one of us
as we serve you in our particular ministry
may find renewed depth in our relationship with you,
may be confirmed in our call to this ministry,
may find our gifts and call affirmed as we offer them in service,
may become a part of a healthy and life-giving community of faith.

Hear these our prayers
as we offer them in the name of Jesus,
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!**

DEDICATION OF THE WORK OF THE CHURCH (*responsive*)

One: Throughout the year,
a small group of talented and generous people work
to create quilts, hats, mittens, scarves, and other useful items
to give to those who are isolated or in need.

**All: We give thanks for the work of their hands
and their generosity of spirit,
and we dedicate these gifts
to the work of this congregation and the glory of God.
May these quilts and other items make warm
the bodies and spirits of those who receive them.**

One: We also offer back to God today the work of our hands
and the mission of our congregation this year,
as we partner with people and groups
to build Christ's reign in downtown Binghamton.

**All: We ask God's blessing on those
who carry out the mission works of this congregation,
including the Sewing Group,
the workers of the Community Meal and Pantry,
and those working at the border with refugees.
We call on the Holy Spirit to guide those
whose work in the community reflects the love of Christ,
such as teachers and educators, musicians, healthcare providers,
and members of service groups including Rotary, the Lions Club,
the Concerned Residents of Greater Binghamton,
and so many others.**

One: May we be faithful stewards of our building and property
so that God's work of reconciling, loving, and healing the world
might be furthered through the agencies and groups we partner with,
including ACBC, JUST, the Family Enrichment Network,
Church in the Wild, CARES Advocates, Citizen Action,
VINES, the White Rose Network, and the GloryShines Foundation.

**All: Bless all those who use this building
so that by respecting justice and charity,
they will see themselves as working for the common good
and find joy in contributing to the betterment of our community.
In Jesus's name we pray. Amen!**

We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve

MINUTE FOR MISSION *Silver Bells gifts*

Judy Girdwood Westcott

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

***SONG OF SENDING** “Lead On, O King Eternal” (see page 11)

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 fainthearted, help the suffering.

Honor all persons.

Love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE

One: And may that 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 “Closing Voluntary”

Andy Chadwick, *organ*

Music: A.E. Batiste. © 1969 Lorenz Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

(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 November.*

Lead On, O King Eternal

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1 Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, the day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King E - ter - nal, we fol - low, not with fears;



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet A - men of peace;
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums,
your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King E - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest: lead on, O God of might.

Words: Ernest W. Shurtleff. Music: Henry T. Smart (LANCASHIRE). Public Domain.

Today after worship: Advent Banner-making

After worship has ended and you've had a chance to enjoy some of the birthday goodies, you're invited to join in the craft activity up front near the PrayGround. We will be creating Advent banners inspired by Illustrated Ministry to decorate the sanctuary.

Next week after worship: Deck the Halls!

Join us for a festive time of fellowship as we decorate the sanctuary for the Advent & Christmas season. Bring your energy and the spirit of the holidays!

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 Henrietta Stith Andrews, posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website, reposted on re:Worship, re-worship.blogspot.com. **Gathering Prayer** from the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website, reposted by Morris United Church (Manitoba, Canada), morrisunitedchurch.ca. **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 the People** adapted from a prayer from the Windsor Park United Church (Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada), posted on windsorparkunitedchurch.com.

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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Cindy Chadwick

Musicians Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Andy Chadwick, *accompanist*; Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; Taylor Hagquist, Robert Manners, Starletta Noll-Long, Phil Westcott, and the UPC Choir

Technicians Chris Burger, Emily Hugenbruch, Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Sara Lieberman