



*Everyone is welcome here*

# UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



**Sunday, May 31, 2026 • 10:00am**

Observance of 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!***

**May 31, 2026 • 10:00am**

*Our text for today, from Exodus 15, is a hinge or inflection point in the story of Moses and the redemption of God's people. The people have been delivered from enslavement, and now they are beginning the 40 years of wandering that will result in the giving of the Torah and the covenant to live together as the people of the One God. Most of the chapter is taken up with the Song of the Sea, also identified in various translations as "Moses' Victory Song" or "The Song of Miriam". We will be reading together from a reconstruction of the Song by a scholar who specializes in the ancient language. It is a moment of celebration, an opportunity for praise, and a pause in the story that reminds us to look for God's saving work in our lives.*

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

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

**GATHERING MUSIC** "Fantasy"

United Ringers handbell choir

Music: Michael Helman. © 1997 The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. (admin. Handbell Musicians of America). All rights reserved.

## **WORDS OF WELCOME**

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

*based on Psalm 8*

One: You, O Yahweh, are more wonderful than our lips can proclaim!

**All: When we consider the awesome works of your hands,  
your love for us is more than amazing!**

One: You have trusted us with the whole of the earth,  
and put everything we see under the care of our hands.

**All: Lord, O Sovereign Lord, the earth is filled with your glory!**

**\*SONG OF GATHERING** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" verses 1, 2, and 4 (see page 3)

**GATHERING PRAYER** (*together*)

*by Martin Brown*

**Come, Spirit, like rain: refresh, renew, revitalize.**

**Come, Spirit, like fire: embolden, enlighten, enable.**

**Come, Spirit, like a mighty wind: move, challenge, enkindle.**

**Come, Spirit, like a wave: move, tear down, lift up.**

**Come, Spirit; come, Breath: draw us close, make songs, bring intimacy.**

**Come, Spirit; come, Love: make one, make justice, make peace.**

**Come, Spirit; come, Kingdom; come, Love.**

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\* = *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre - a -  
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign -  
 4. Praise to the Lord, for in won - der my spi - rit is soar -

tion. O my soul, wor - ship the well - spring of health and sal -  
 ing, guard - ing with shel - ter - ing wings, ev - er gen - tly sus -  
 ing! All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es out -

va - tion. Come, all who hear, now to God's tem - ple draw  
 tain - ing. Have you not seen all that is need - ed has  
 pour - ing! Let the "a - men" sound from God's peo - ple a -

near. Join me in glad a - do - ra - - - tion.  
 been held in God's gra - cious or - dain - - - ing?  
 gain, glad - ly for - ev - er a - dor - - - ing!

Words: Joachim Neander; trans. Catherine Winkworth, alt. Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Straslung Gesangbuch*, 1665. Public Domain.

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

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The bread and the fruit of the vine we share  
join us to the people throughout history and across the world  
who have come to this meal in search of life.

This bread and this cup are for everyone:

for the hungry,  
for the lost,  
for those who search,  
and those who are found,  
for those who question,  
and those who know peace;

this is bread and drink for everyone.

When we share with each other,  
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.

Wherever you are on this journey of life,  
you are welcome here,  
here in this place, here in this community, here at this table.  
Come, children of God, come and remember with us.

**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*)

**Holy God, we praise you.  
Let the heavens be joyful,  
and the earth be glad.  
We bless you for creating the whole world,  
for your promises to your people,  
and for the life we know in Jesus Christ your son.  
Born of Mary, he shares our life.  
Eating with sinners, he welcomes us.  
Leading his followers, he guides us.  
Dying on the cross, he loves us.  
Risen from the dead, he gives new life.**

**We pray, God of love, that you will  
send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here:  
that we and these signs, touched by your Spirit,  
may be signs of life and love to each other  
and to all the world.**

**This we pray in the name of the one who taught us when we pray together 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 break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All: God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

One: We are welcome to this gift of God, the cup of blessing.

**All: God's love is poured out with love and abundance.**



One: Pharaoh's chariots and his army he has cast into the sea;  
and the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea.

**All: The deeps cover them;  
they went down into the depths like a stone.**

One: At the blast of your nostrils the waters were piled up,

**All: The flowing waters stood up like a heap;  
the deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea.**

One: The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil;  
my desire shall be gratified against them;  
I will draw out my sword, my hand will destroy them.'

**All: You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.**

One: Yahweh is my strength and song,  
and he has become my salvation;

**All: This is my God, and I will praise him;  
my ancestor's God, and I will extol him.**

One: Who is like you among the gods, O Yahweh?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in praises, working wonders?

**All: In your loving kindness you have led the people whom you have redeemed;  
in your strength you have guided them to your holy habitation.**

One: You will bring them and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance,  
the place, O Yahweh, which you have made for your dwelling,  
the sanctuary, O Yahweh, which your hands have established.

**All: Yahweh shall reign forever and ever!**

## REFLECTIONS

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

### *We Respond to the Word*

\*SONG OF RESPONSE "Deep in the Shadows of the Past" (see page 8)

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

*from "A Brief Statement of Faith," PC(USA), 1991*

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and we serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, Come, Lord Jesus!**

*(continued on page 9)*

# Deep in the Shadows of the Past 50

1 Deep in the shad-ows of the past, far out from set - tled lands,  
 2 While oth-ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter - y,  
 3 From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom-ise changed and grew,  
 4 For all the writ-ings that sur-ived, for lead - ers, long a - go,

some no - mads trav-eled with their God a - cross the des - ert sands.  
 in - vis - i - ble, with-out a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";  
 while some, re - mem - ber - ing the past, re - cord - ed what they knew,  
 who sift - ed, cop - ied, and pre - served the Bi - ble that we know,

The dawn - ing hope of hu - man - kind by them was sensed and shown:  
 and by their tents, a - round their fires in sto - ry, song, and law,  
 or with their let - ters and la - ments, their proph - e - cy and praise,  
 give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet our prom - ise, strength, and call,

a . prom - ise call - ing them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.  
 they praised, re - mem - bered, hand - ed on a past that prom - ised more.  
 re - cov - ered, kin - dled, and ex - pressed new hope for chang - ing days.  
 the mod - el of e - merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.

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**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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](http://upcbgm.org/give), or by sending a check to the church office or putting a donation in one of the collection boxes or offering plates by the door.*



**OFFERING OF MUSIC “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”**

UPC Choir

*Refrain:* Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray;  
yes, every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke: out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
Looked all around me, it looked so fine, 'til I asked my Lord if all was mine. [*Refrain*]

Jordan River is chilly and cold; it chills the body but not the soul.  
There ain't but one train upon this track; it runs to heaven and right back. [*Refrain, twice*]

Words and Music: African-American spiritual; arr. William L. Dawson, © 1946, ren. 1973. All rights reserved.

**OFFERING OF PRAYER (*together*)**

**Loving God,  
we know that ministry is not a service we receive at church  
so much as it is a life-giving work you call us to do with others.  
Use our gifts and our talents,  
blended with the gifts and talents of others around the world,  
to make a difference in our lives and the lives of others. Amen!**

**We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS**

**\*SONG OF SENDING** “Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow” (see page 10)

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

*a Franciscan blessing*

One: May God bless us with discomfort  
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,  
so that we may live deeply within our hearts.

**All: May God bless us with anger  
at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

One: May God bless us with tears to shed  
for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war,  
so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them  
and turn their pain into joy.

*(continued on back page)*

# 333 Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow

1 Wind who makes all winds that blow—gusts that bend the sap-lings low,  
 2 Fire who fuels all fires that burn—suns a-round which plan-ets turn,  
 3 Ho-ly Spir-it, Wind and Flame, move with-in our mor-tal frame.

gales that heave the sea in waves, stir-rings in the mind's deep caves—  
 bea-cons mark-ing reefs and shoals, shin-ing truth to guide our souls—  
 Make our hearts an al-tar pyre, kin-dle them with your own fire.

aim your breath with stead-y power on your church this day, this hour.  
 come to us as once you came: burst in tongues of sa-cred flame!  
 Breathe and blow up-on that blaze till our lives, our deeds and ways,

Raise, re-new the life we've lost, Spir-it God of Pen-te-cost.  
 Light and Pow-er, Might and Strength, fill your church, its breadth and length.  
 speak that tongue which ev-ery land by your grace shall un-der-stand.

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# This Is Who We Are

Tracy Keenan

Tracy Keenan & Aisha Brooks-Lytle, arr. Ernest Backus

**Andante**

G $\flat$  A $\flat$  B $\flat$ (sus4) B $\flat$  G $\flat$  A $\flat$  B $\flat$ (sus4) B $\flat$  E $\flat$ /G F/A B $\flat$  E $\flat$ (add2)

We are peo-ple of prayer,

7 E $\flat$ (add2)/C F7(sus4) F7 B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$ (sus2) E $\flat$ /G F/A

peo-ple of cour - age, and peo-ple who dare, and We are

10 B $\flat$  E $\flat$ maj7(add9) Cm7 Cm7/F

peo-ple u - ni - ted to serve, be-cause we're peo-ple who care, and we're a -

13 F/G E $\flat$ (add2)/A $\flat$  A $\flat$ maj7 Cm7 F7 B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$ (sus2)

live and ris - ing, stir-ring and stirred by the life-breath-ing Word,

17 G $\flat$  A $\flat$ (add2) B $\flat$ (sus4) B $\flat$  G $\flat$  A $\flat$ (add2) B $\flat$ (sus4) B $\flat$

This is Who We Are This is Who We Are

Words: Tracy Keenan, © 2019. Music: Tracy Keenan and Aisha Brooks-Lytle, © 2019; arr. Ernest Backus.

**All: May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.**

One: And when we are deep in the earthy, messy thick of it,

**All: may we remember to look up at the stars and wonder. Amen!**

#### 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 may 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 (*together*) "This Is Who We Are" (see page 11)

(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.*

**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 also a nursery space at the end of the hall at the front of the sanctuary that is open for use with a parent or guardian. It has a changing table, a rocking chair, and some toys appropriate for age two and under. There is a speaker in the room so you can listen to the service. Please let us know if you have questions.

**PRAYER CREDITS:** **Gathering Prayer** by Martin Brown, from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development website, [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk).  
**We Say What We Believe** excerpted from "A Brief Statement of Faith", PC(USA), 1991.

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**Pastors** Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Cindy Burger  
**Musicians** Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Nancy McNamara, *accompanist*;  
Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; Ernest Backus, Taylor Hagquist, Starletta Noll-Long,  
the United Ringers handbell choir, and the UPC Choir ~ **Technicians** Emily Hugenbruch,  
Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Shawn Landon, Sara Lieberman, Phil Westcott