

(Parts of the service in **bold** are for everyone to speak in unison.)

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Video - *Be Still*

by The Fray

Prayer of Invocation

**You do not want us
to be ignorant of your
dreams and hopes for this world,
God of holiness,
so you speak to us in parables,
so we might pay careful attention
to your words;
you tell us stories about
our grandparents in the faith,
so we might become mentors
to our grandchildren, and theirs.
Filling us with the holy oil
of generosity and grace,
you make us ready to welcome
Jesus Christ into the world,
and to open our hearts
to those who are in need.**

Hymn 306

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

Scripture Reading

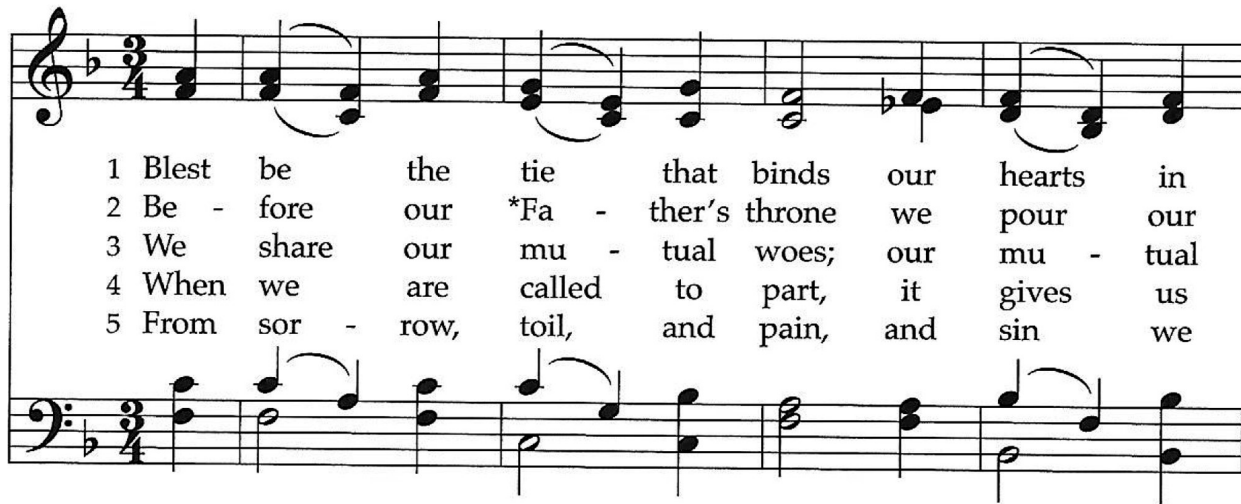
Matthew 18:11-14

What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your^a Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

Sermon

(continued)

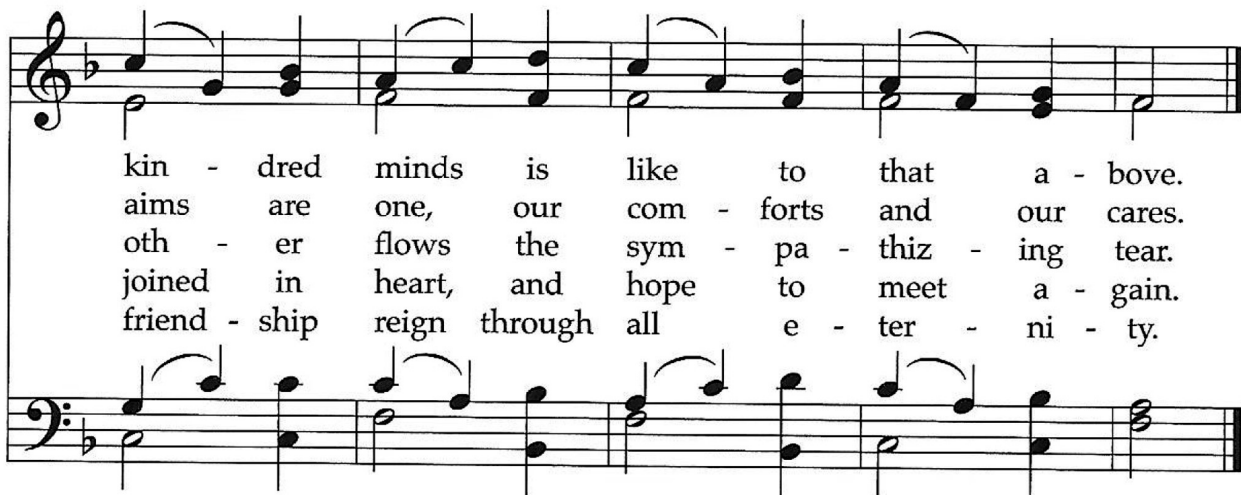
Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we



Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

We believe in the love-kindom of God,
through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us.

We believe the love-kindom is like a mustard seed;
sown in apparent insignificance,
growing into magnificence for the greening of the world.

We believe the love-kindom is like yeast;
inserted in humble insignificance into the dough of life,
expanding into enough bread for the world.

We believe the love-kindom of God is like a treasure;
lost and rendered insignificant under the ground,
now found with joy and thanksgiving.

We believe the love-kindom of God is like pearls;
all others become in insignificant
when the largest, most beautiful pearl of all is found.

We believe the love-kindom of God is like a net full of fish;
where even insignificant sardines are saved
but worm-ridden barracuda are thrown away.

We believe in the love-kindom of God,
through Christ upon us, within us, beyond us;
where the meek and the poor, the merciful and the hungry,
rejoice with the angels of God.

Loving God, we believe; scatter our unbelief..

As sabers rattle in lands both close and distant
we confess that we are in pain,
fear has taken root in the souls of our being.
*Even as we turn to the parables ,
familiar stories that we thought we loved,
we find troubling stories offering ever more questions .*
**Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy,
have mercy upon us.**

We are loathe to take account of the many ways
in which we unwittingly profit
from the machinery of war and greed.
*Still we read the parables of Jesus
which fly in the face of social convention
offending those who dare to listen.*
**Christ have mercy,
Christ have mercy,
have mercy upon us.**

Believing that we are insignificant,
and at the same time fearful that we might become so,
we are timid to use our voices to speak truth to a world of war.
*Now the parables of Jesus offer a new vision;
now the servants dine and the masters serve,
now the last becomes and the first becomes last.*
**Lord have mercy,
Lord have mercy,
have mercy upon us.**

Hear the good news of the Story
that no sheep is unworthy of rescue,
no coin too small to be missed.
Hear the good news
that love is stronger than hate
and that this power is alive within you
now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn 754

Help Us Accept Each Other

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Good Shepherd Staff

Bridge Pastor: Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington
Choir Director: Sara Tyburczy

Office Admin: Teddie McConnell
Accompanist: Dr. Jonathan Morris

Help Us Accept Each Other 754



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!