

**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
August 27, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.**

**The Gathering**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

**God of Many Names, we gather as a people formed by you. We were conceived and birthed out of your imagination and love. You give us breath and life and being. You meet us in the sanctuary and on the sofa. You call us by name with purpose, care, and love. May our time together in this space, online or onsite, remind us of our connectedness to you, each other, and all creation. May you be glorified, honored, and worshiped in spirit and in truth. May we be rooted, challenged, and encouraged in love. We welcome your presence among us. We seek your guiding Spirit. We place our trust in you. Amen.**

PRELUDE                      All the Way My Savior Leads Me    Arr. Tom Birchwood

**Gathering Around the Word**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks and praise to the Holy One!

**Many: We bow down in reverence as we, the temple of the Living God, gather for worship.**

One: Sing praises with your whole heart!

**Many: We exalt our God who is faithful and steadfast in love.**

One: Hear the word of our great and glorious God!

**Many: We listen in anticipation for the Sovereign One remembers God's people**

HYMN

**Forward Through the Ages**

1. Forward through the ages, in unbroken line;  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine,  
Gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord,  
Manifold the service, one the sure reward.

**REFRAIN**    Forward through the ages, in unbroken line;  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

2. Wider grows the kingdom, reign of love and light;  
For it we must labor, till our faith is sight.  
Prophets have proclaimed it, martyrs testified,  
Poets sung its glory, heroes for it died.

**REFRAIN**    Forward through the ages, in unbroken line;  
Move the faithful spirits at the call divine.

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Renewing God, we confess that all too often we conform to this world. The voices we prioritize are far removed from you. We drown out your Still Speaking Voice with the noise of consumerism and commercialism. We ignore your gentle nudge in favor of our own desires and comfort. We fail to actively love our neighbor, care for your creation, or even honor ourselves as your divine crafting. We resist transformation through the renewing of our minds and settle for echo chambers of thoughts and ideas that deplete and deprive our souls of abundant life.

## UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

**Forgive us and continually challenge us to be the people you have empowered and equipped us to be.**

*Silence is kept.*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The One who created you knows your struggles. God is still speaking, renewing, and transforming. God's grace is still sufficient and made new each and every day. God has faith in you and abides with you in the journey of new life and transformation.

## PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER ["Sins"]

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus  
Cheryl Raine, piano

Arr. By Mark Hayes

## The Word

### SCRIPTURE

#### **Romans 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup> We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup> ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

#### **Matthew 16:13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' <sup>14</sup> And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' <sup>15</sup> He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of

the living God.' <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

SERMON

"Identity."

### **Responding to the Word**

OFFERING

#### **Prayer of Dedication/Offering**

*Giver of every gift, we give thanks for your provision that allows us to live a generous life. Use our offerings of time, talent, and treasure to expand your kingdom. May these gifts be magnified and meet the needs of this community and your world. Amen.*

HYMN

#### **Bind Us Together**

Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together  
With cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together, Lord  
Bind us together with love.

There is only one God, there is only one King;  
There is only one body, that is why we can sing.

Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together  
With cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together, Lord  
Bind us together with love.

### **Sending the Word**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Love Lifted Me

Arr. James Pethel



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