

Contemporary Worship

September 6, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 23



GATHERING MUSIC

Joyful, Joyful – Beethoven/Herms/Van Dyke/Hall

*Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.*

*Joyful, joyful, we adore You!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You!
Joyful, joyful, we adore You, joyful, we adore You!*

*All Your works with joy surround You, earth and heav'n reflect Your ways.
Stars and angels sing around You, center of unbroken praise.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.*

*God our Father, Christ our Brother; all who live in love are Thine.
Teach us how to love each other; lift us to the joy divine.
God our Father, Christ our Brother; all who live in love are Thine.
Teach us how to love each other; lift us to the joy divine.*

WELCOME

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING SONG *

They'll Know We Are Christians/Awesome God

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

Verse 1: We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Chorus: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.
Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above.
With wisdom, power and love, Our God is an awesome God!

Verse 2: We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land...*chorus*

Verse 3: We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride...*chorus*

Verse 4: All praise to the Father from whom all things come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one...*chorus*

"They'll know we are Christians By Our Love" words and music by Peter Scholtes

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"Awesome God" words and music by Rich Mullins

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SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG & PRAYERS *

Live in Charity

*The refrain is sung by the Praise Team and then the Assembly joins in the refrain.
All join in the refrain as indicated throughout the prayers.*

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score consists of two systems. The first system has two lines of music. The second system also has two lines of music. The lyrics are: 'Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love, live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.' The melody is simple and repetitive, with a triplet of eighth notes in the second system.

Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8; *Where charity and love are found, God is there*; Taizé Community, 1978
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1979, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Leader: Trusting in God's love, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

For your church,
that we may awaken to Christ's call to love and serve one another...*Refrain*

Leader: For our communities,
that we may see every person as our neighbor
and respond with compassion to those in need...*Refrain*

Leader: For those who are lonely, hurting, sick or afraid,
that they may know your presence through the love of others...*Refrain*

Leader: For ourselves, that we may put on Christ
and live each day with generous hearts, forgiving spirits,
and faithful love...*Refrain*

Leader: Receive our prayers, O God, and make us instruments of your love;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord...*Refrain*

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: **And also with you!**

*The assembly greets each other with
"peace be with you...and also with you."*

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.

If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

OFFERING

Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly – Tomlin/Ingram/Barrett

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.



*It all comes down to this, what you require of me:
Love my neighbor as myself, and You above all things.*

*Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with You, God.
In all things, in all ways, walk humbly with You, God.*

*It all comes down to this, to be Your hands and feet,
Good news to all the world, the truth will set us free.*

*It's beauty for ashes, it's mourning to dancing.
It's closer and closer, the Kingdom of heaven.*

*Years from now we'll see the fruit our hands have sown.
Faith, just like a seed, the only way it grows.*

CONFESSION *

Leader: We come before God as we are—honest about our failures,
open to God's mercy, and ready to be changed by love.
Let us confess our sins and receive the grace God freely gives.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: Loving God,

Assembly: we confess that we do not always love our neighbors as ourselves.

We get caught up in our own needs,
hold on to anger,
judge others,
and choose comfort over compassion.

Wake us up, Lord.

Help us leave behind the works of darkness
and walk in your light.

Teach us to put on Christ—
choosing love over resentment,
kindness over judgment,
and service over self-interest.

Forgive us, renew us,
and make our lives a reflection of your steadfast love.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: The table is prepared.
 Come, share in this feast of love.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Bind Us Together

Chorus: 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.

Verse 1: There is only one God.
 There is only one King.
 There is only one body.
 That is why we can sing...*chorus*

Verse 2: You are the fam'ly of God.
 You are the promise divine.
 You are God's chosen desire.
 You are the glorious new wine...*chorus*

Words & Music: Bob Gillman

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Loving God,
thank you for feeding and nourishing us with the body and blood of Christ.
Fill us with your love, that we may love our neighbors as ourselves.
Open our hearts to those in need, our eyes to those who are hurting,
and our hands to serve them.
Clothe us with Christ and send us forth in love.
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Go now in the light of Christ.
Love one another as Christ has loved you.
Serve your neighbor with compassion,
and let your life shine with God's grace.
May the blessing of almighty God,
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Assembly: Amen.

SONG *

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Verse 1: We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, oo,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, oo,
We are marching in the light of God.

Verse 2: We are dancing . . .
Verse 3: We are praying . . .
Verse 4: We are singing . . .

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
 Be God's love in the world.
Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Lisa Parrott, Director of Sunday School
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Praise Team

FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in memory of the 92nd birthday (September 5)
of our Dad, Orlan F. Kopp,
by Brad & Judy Kopp and Nelson & Linda Kopp and families.*

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