



WELCOME HOME!

AUGUST 10, 2025 9:00 A.M.

We kindly ask that you silence your cellphones and electronic devices as we create a sacred space for contemplation and prayer.

¶ - Please rise in body or in spirit.

Chiming the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

GOD GATHERS THE SCATTERED

Prelude *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* arr. Richard Elliott

¶ Call to Worship Bob Rice

One: God calls out: "You who are far off, draw near to me!"

Many: And so, we come. Because we want peace.

One: Christ calls out: "My own peace I give you and not as the world gives!"

Many: And so, we come. Because we need peace.

One: The Spirit calls out: "I will send you into a world of strife to love your enemies."

Many: And so, we come. Because, with God's help, we make peace.

1. Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.

2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
 God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail,
 God will take care of you.

Refrain: God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you,
God will take care of you.

3. All you may need he will provide,
God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied,
God will take care of you.

4. No matter what may be the test,
 God will take care of you;
 lean, weary one, upon his breast,
 God will take care of you.

† Opening Prayer

Unison

God of love and peace,
 you adopt us as your children through the mystery
 of Christ's death and resurrection.
In your family, there are no divisions,
 no betters, no favorites.
This we know, yet our fears still focus on the different,
 the un-alike, the strange.
Give us an inner peace that does not fear difference.
Speak now, and break down the walls within us,
 so that we might break down the walls between us.
In Jesus' name and through his life, we pray. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS THE WORD TO US

Children's Moment

Dr. Parkes

A Reading from the Epistles

Ephesians 2:11-22

One: Word of God, Word of Life! Many: Thanks be to God!

Musical Offering

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho
Maddie Mehan & Lynette Lewis, Vocalists

Sermon

Together We Find Peace

Rev. Dr. Sam Parkes

GOD INSPIRES US TO RESPOND

Prayer of Confession

Bringer of Peace,
We confess: we are a family of fault finders and nit pickers.
We call "holy" these walls of sterile stone and dead wood,
 while you want to build us into a temple of burning hearts
 and helping hands.

We fear new thoughts and the new people who bring them.
We divide up human lives when you have joined all together
through your death.

We are sick of being like this.
Our fears neither please you nor satisfy us.
Transplant our hearts of sterile stone
 with the pulse of your own peaceful heart
that we, too, might break down every wall that stops us
 from serving, blessing, and healing all the others.

Amen

Words of Assurance

Hymn	<i>Blest Be the Tie that Binds</i>	UMH 557
	1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.	3. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
	2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.	4. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

¶ The Peace

One: The Peace of the Lord Jesus be always with you.

Many: And also with you.

The Offering

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise
God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

GOD SENDS US TO THE WORLD

¶ Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

UMH 121

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
2. There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
3. For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
4. If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

¶ Dismissal with Blessing

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

arr. George J. Webb

It is the habit of some to remain seated through the postlude to savor a few last moments of prayer before returning to the world. Others must leave to gather children or help with other activities. We only ask that you do so quietly until you reach the Narthex. We are grateful you chose to be part of our family today!