

Come to the Table

2 October 2022

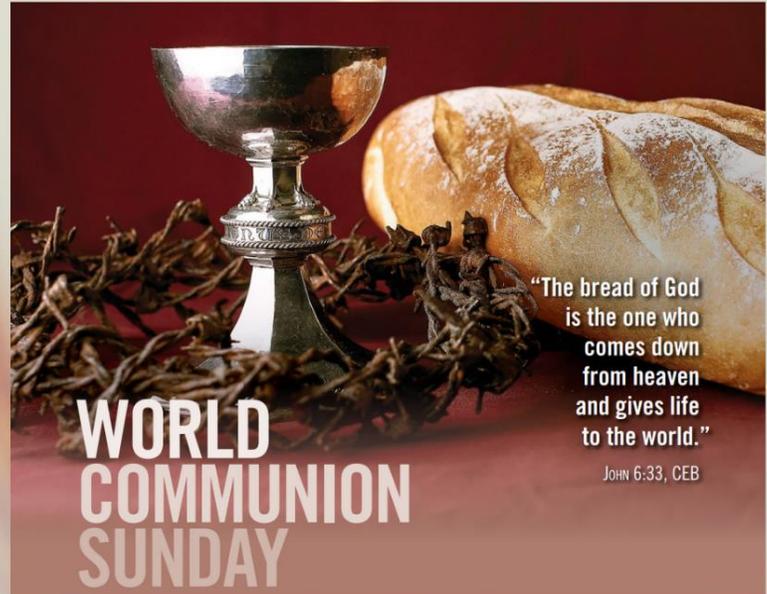
10:00 am

300 East Miller St.

Elmira, NY 14904

Presented by:

Elmira Area Clergy



<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/umcgiving/special-sundays/world-communion-sunday-pastor-and-leader-kit>

Participating Churches

Bethany Lutheran Church

Episcopal Churches of Chemung County

New Beginnings United Methodist Church

North Presbyterian Church

The Park Church

Ray Of Hope Church

United Baptist Church

Hosted by:

New Beginnings UMC

United Baptist Church



Guest Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams

Conference Minister

United Church of Christ

New York

WE GATHER

Prelude

Gwen Beckman

Welcome

Rev. Pat Hubman

Welcome to this celebration of World Communion Sunday and to our building. First some housekeeping details: In case you haven't been here before, please notice the emergency exit to YOUR right and those behind you. In case of an emergency, please take your family and exit as quickly as possible. Let the New Beginnings and UBC leaders deal with the emergency. Restrooms you will find out these doors, turning right down the hall, they will be on the left. You will also find restrooms on the right wall of the gym as you enter from this direction.

Let us prepare our hearts as we celebrate our ability to gather as one body with many different members for the first time since 2020 when the pandemic changed our lives. Many of us are coping as best we can with loneliness, depression and other mental health concerns that were accentuated during the past two years. Some of us are dealing with the effects of long term covid that seem to linger. And during that time, many of us have lost loved ones. Today as we begin our worship we want to remember and give thanks to God for those who have gone before us, these last two years, to their eternal rest. As we sing "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" the names of those we have lost will be shown on the screen to receive the gift of your prayers.

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Rev. Br. Shawn Benedict and Music Ministry

Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 near, When my life is al - most gone,
 near, And the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
 At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



light, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 fall, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 hand. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993
 Tune: PRECIOUS LORD, 66 9 D; George N. Allen; arr. by Kelly Dobbs Mickus, b. 1966
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***Call to Worship**

Rev. Jim Horton

Come, let us bow down in worship,
 let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
 for he is our God
 and we are the people of his pasture,
 the flock under his care.

***One Bread, One Body**

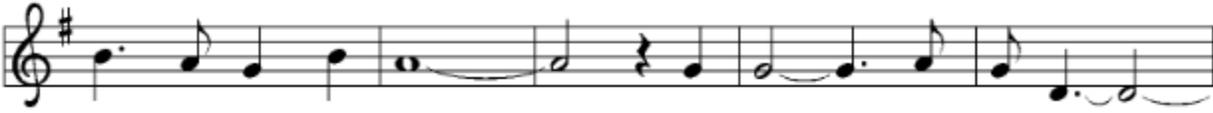
Music Ministry

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



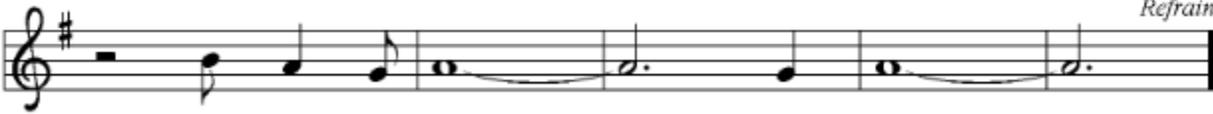
bles-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or Jew,	ser - vant	or free,
2	Man - y	the gifts,	man - y	the works,
3	Grain for	the fields,	scat - tered	and grown,



Refrain

wom - an	or man,	no	more.
one in	the Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to one	for	all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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WE HEAR THE WORD**Confession and Forgiveness**

Rev. Roger Behrens: In the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

Lauri Schwenke, Bethany Lutheran Church:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, though Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

Lauri Schwenke: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

ALL: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Those who believe in Jesus Christ receive power to become the children of God and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we celebrate the forgiveness of all our sins through Christ, Our Lord.

ALL: Amen

****Thy Word***

Music Ministry

Thy Word

Words by AMY GRANT
Music by MICHAEL W. SMITH
CCLI SONG # 14301

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five staves of music. The first two staves are the main melody with lyrics: "Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path." The third staff continues the melody with lyrics: "1. When I feel a - fraid, and I think I've lost my way, 7 Still You're there right be- 2. I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet my heart for - ev - er is". The fourth staff continues with lyrics: "side me. Noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near. wan - der - ing. Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;". The fifth staff concludes with lyrics: "Please be near me to the end. I will love You to the end." and includes the instruction "D.C. twice".

Chords indicated above the staff: F, C/E, F, Bb/D, C, F, C, Gm, Dm, Am, Bb, C, Bb/F, F, C, Gm, Dm, Am, Bb, C, C/D, D, Csus, C.

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First Reading

Cindy Kalweit, North Presbyterian Church: The first reading is Isaiah chapter 55, verses 10 and 11.

For just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the sower and bread for food,
so will my word be
that goes forth from my mouth:
it will not return to me empty,
but will carry out my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

(The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Translation © 2007 by Priests for Equality, pg. 257)

This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 34:2-9

Jeremy Lundberg, Ray Of Hope Church: The Psalm today is Psalm 34, verses 2-9. Our response is, "Taste and see the goodness of the Lord."

ALL: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless God at all times;
 God's praise shall be ever in my mouth.
 Let my soul glory in Our God;
 the lowly will hear me and be glad.

ALL: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify God with me,
 and together praise the Holy Name of God.
 I sought God's help, and my prayer was answered.
 God delivered me from all my fears.

ALL: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Look to God that you may be radiant with joy.
 And your faces may not blush with shame.
 When the afflicted person called out, God listened,
 And saved them from all their fears and afflictions.

ALL: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

The Angel of the LORD encamps
 around those who reverence God, and delivers them.
 Taste and see how good the LORD is;
 blessed are those who take refuge in God.

ALL: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord**Second Reading**

Michele Stanford, Grace Episcopal Church: Our second reading is Ephesians 4:1-8.

Unity in the Body of Christ

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

"When he ascended on high,
 he took many captives
 and gave gifts to his people."

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE for contemplation on the Scripture Readings we have heard today.

***Gospel Reading**

Rev. Gary Brinn: Please stand if you are able. A reading of the Holy Gospel of John Chapter 6, verses 27-35.

Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?”

Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Please be seated.

Rev. Brinn will introduce our Guest Preacher.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams

Conference Minister

New York Conference, United Church of Christ

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Sarah Skebey, United Baptist Church:

Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs.

Loving our neighbors as ourselves, we offer our thanksgiving and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Daniel Schwenke/Lauri Schwenke, Bethany Lutheran Church:

Gracious God, grant peace among nations. Cleanse from our own hearts the seeds of strife: greed and envy, harsh misunderstandings and ill will, fear and desire for revenge. Make us quick to welcome ventures in cooperation among the peoples of the world, so that there may be woven the fabric of a common good too strong to be torn by the evil hands of war. In this time of community gathering, make us be diligent; and in the time of peril, let not our courage fail.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Deb Todd, Grace Episcopal Church:

Honored Creator, Humankind is blessed beyond measure with gifts from your hand, that sustain us. The earth is a source of nourishment. The intellectual and technical abilities developed in humans, which enable manifold replenishment of nourishment... these were endowed by you. Today, the grateful servants gathered here fervently ask that obstacles cast by men that impede distribution or provision of food and other nourishment to **all your creation**, ...may these be struck down.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Sue Grenoble, New Beginnings United Methodist Church:

Lord, we pray for those who are dealing with the darkness of addictions. We ask that you shine your healing light on those who need your strength to simply live one day at a time. We ask that you reveal yourself to those who are dealing with mental health concerns that they might know your powerful presence when they need it most. It is in knowing the power of your name we say:

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Kurt Kalweit, North Presbyterian Church:

We lift up all those who are suffering in mind, body, and spirit; as well as their caretakers, their families, friends, doctors, nurses, all who provide or assist in providing them the care they need. Merciful God, you do not turn your back on our plight, but are with us in our suffering and in our struggle. Pour out your Spirit upon your creation so that we might know healing, comfort, and hope in our world and in our lives.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Andrea Nichols, The Park Church:

Jesus encountered a man, unsheltered, mentally ill, living among the tombs. Jesus called the man to wholeness, and restored him to his community. For those who are unsheltered, those who are couch-surfing, those who are anxious about soaring rents...

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Kaiden Rae Benedict, Ray Of Hope Church: We pray that all churches will readily welcome everyone, just as Christ has welcomed us. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Sarah Skebey: We now pause for a moment of silence to add our own petitions within the quietness of our hearts – Moment of silence – We pray to the Lord,

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Sarah Skebey: Thank you oh God for hearing our prayers!! We are grateful to be gathered together to partake in Holy Communion!! May your blessings be upon each of us!! We Love and honor you oh God.

ALL: Amen

Offering

Sue Grenoble: This morning's offering will go to Habitat for Humanity. All cash offerings will go automatically go to Habitat. If you wish your offering to go to your home church, please be sure that it is CLEARLY labelled. We do have blank envelopes in the chair pockets to help you with this. If you care to write a check, please write it to New Beginnings UMC and put in the memo for Habitat for Humanity. Let us pray: We give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us. In the upside-down world of the gospel, we measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless

your church, your people, your creation.¹ The morning offering will now be received, in person, electronically or through the mail.

We Are Called

Music Ministry

(Clergy please come forward during the reception of the offering)

We Are Called

720



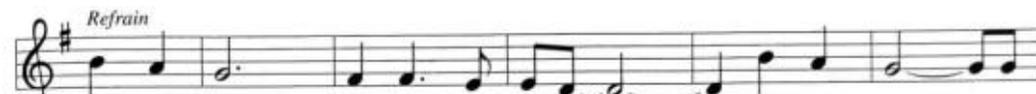
1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



Refrain
We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: David Haas
Text and music © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc.

WE ARE CALLED
Irregular

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***Doxology**

Music Ministry

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;

¹ (Source: Quentin Chin, United Church of Christ website) <https://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=836>

Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Alleluia!

*Rev. Hubman: Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

Rev. Evan Hansen: Instruction for use of the communion kits received on the way into the sanctuary.

WE SHARE THE HOLY SUPPER

Rev. Hansen: The Lord be with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Rev. Hansen: Lift up your hearts!

ALL: We lift them to the Lord!

Rev. Hansen: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Rev. Scott-Jones: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord almighty and every living God.

Rev. Brinn: This table is prepared for each of us, and for all of us together. We come to this Table, not because we must, we come because we may. It is the Love of GOD that prepares us for this table and this table for us.

Rev. Behrens: Receiving from this table, we are invited to experience Jesus Christ as the Lord of Life. For His life, His death, and His Life Rising Up have made all things new. Thanks be to God for such grace-filled hospitality as His.

ALL: Thanks be to God for such grace-filled hospitality as This.

Rev. Hansen: Let us be in a spirit of prayer: Dear God, we give you thanks for the invitation to join You and Yours at this table of Communion. Here, we are received for Life in Your Household by Your Enduring Love - Love that is Self-Giving. May the gifts we now share with each other nourish all, strengthen all, and liberate all, cascading divine generosity throughout Your Caring Kingdom.

ALL: Amen.

Rev. Scott-Jones: Therefore, overcome with joy on this World Communion Sunday, we join with our brothers and sisters around the world, and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, singing together the unending hymn of your glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy, verse 4

Music Ministry

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!



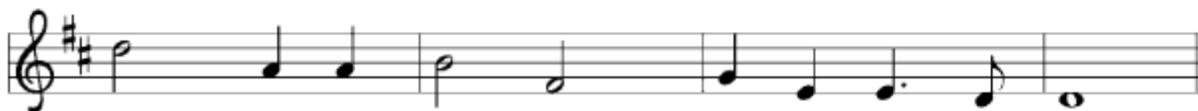
1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
 Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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Rev. Dr. Williams: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world, you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in His holy supper.

ALL: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Rev. Hubman: We remember Jesus lifting the bread during the supper, giving thanks, celebrating it as purest blessing, saying: Take and eat, this is my body, offered up for you. Eat this bread as often as you will, in remembrance of Me.

Rev. Horton: We remember Jesus lifting the cup after the supper, giving thanks, celebrating it as purest blessings, saying: Take and drink, this is the blood of my life, it is the cup of a new covenant: "Love One Another." Drink this cup as often as you will in remembrance of Me.

Rev. Benedict: Having heard the Word of God and having remembered the sacrifice of the cross, we invite everyone to pray together the prayer of Jesus.

**ALL: 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 this is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen**

PRIVATE PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Dr. Jan Eberhard, The Park Church: Some people are watching from a location where they do not have actual Holy Communion Bread and Wine with them. We offer the following prayer for them based upon a prayer from the Episcopal National Cathedral Prayer book for a Spiritual reception of Holy Communion. This prayer assures all the benefits and blessings of a physical reception.

Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

Invitation to the Table

Rev. Hubman: Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

ALL: It is!

Rev. Horton: The cup over which we give thanks, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

ALL: It is!

Rev. Horton: Let us pray. Dear Heavenly Loving God, we give You thanks for inviting us to Your table. Here we have been received just as we are, nourished for Life in Your Household. Strengthen our faith, we pray. Increase our love for one another. Send us in courage and in peace, so that whether we are gathered or scattered, we are Yours. We pray this in the name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen

THE GOING FORTH

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Music Ministry

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams

Postlude

Gwen Beckman

Participating Clergy:

The Rev. Roger Behrens, Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church

The Rev. Br. Shawn F. Benedict, Pastor of Ray Of Hope Church

The Rev. Gary Brinn, Pastor of The Park Church

The Rev. Evan Hansen, Pastor of North Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Jim Horton, Interim Pastor of United Baptist Church

The Rev. Patricia Hubman, Pastor of New Beginnings United Methodist Church

The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones, Pastor of Grace Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. Marsha Williams, Conference Minister, New York Conference, United Church of Christ

Special thanks to:

ALL Lay Leaders and Readers

Gwen Beckman, Director of Liturgy, United Baptist Church, piano

Alice Davis, Director of Christian Education, United Baptist Church

Lisa Frost, violin

Paul Holland, Choir Director of North Presbyterian Church and New Beginnings UMC, guitar

Dave Hubman and the Technology Crew of New Beginnings UMC

Ushers from New Beginnings UMC and United Baptist Church

LIFE IS SHORT
AND WE DO NOT HAVE
MUCH TIME TO
GLADDEN
THE HEARTS
OF THOSE WHO
TRAVEL WITH US
SO BE SWIFT TO LOVE
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND
AND GO IN PEACE
TO LOVE AND SERVE
THE LORD
HENRI - FREDERIC AMIEL