

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, September 20, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Greeting - Pastor Mark

Prelude: "Give Me Jesus" (Spiritual, arr. Faye Lopez) - DeeAnn
(Inspired by Palmgren's "May Night")

Words of Invitation - Pastor Margery

Hymn 443: "Called As Partners in Christ's Service" - DeeAnn et al.

Gathering Prayer - Pastor Margery

Anthem: "If Ye Love Me" (Thomas Tallis) - Barb/DeeAnn/Chancel Choir

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts - Pastor Mark
Doxology (Hymn 563) - DeeAnn et al.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors) - Pastor Mark

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16 - Lorraine

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Sermon: "RETHINKING A PROBLEMATIC PARABLE" - Pastor Mark

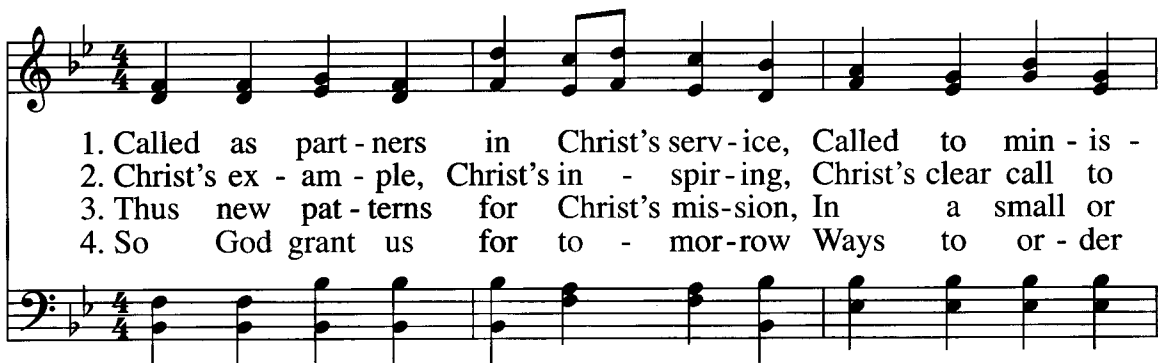
Hymn 294: "God Binds Us With a Mighty Cord" - DeeAnn et al.

Benediction - Pastor Mark

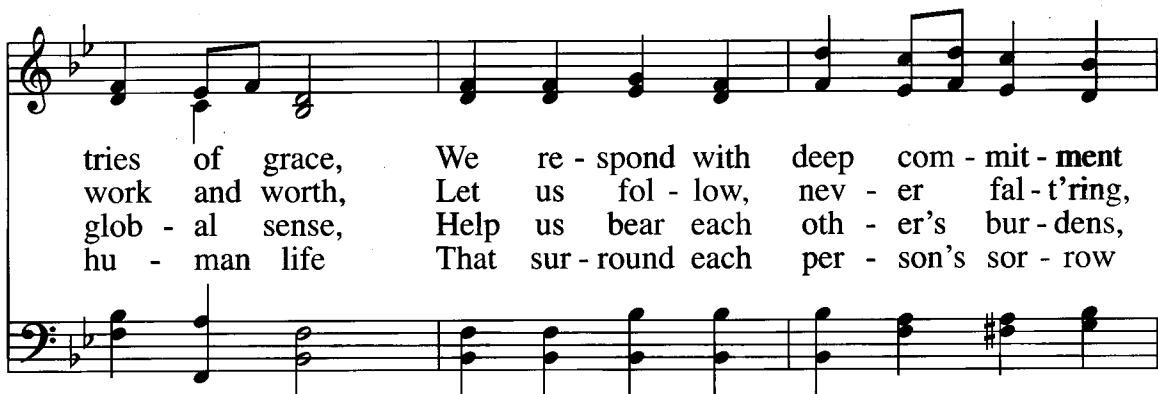
Benediction Response 581: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" (Peter C. Lutkin) - DeeAnn et al.
The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace, and give you peace; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you, be gracious, The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Greet One Another - All

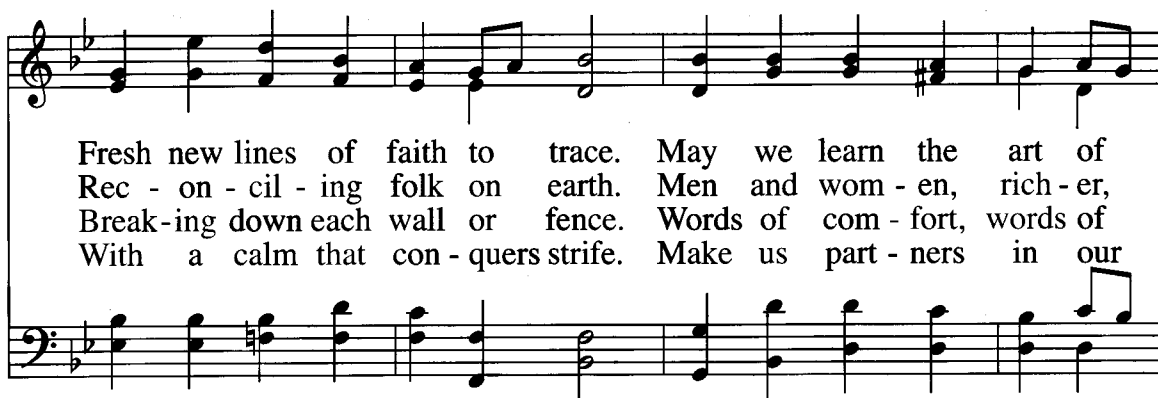
Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barbara Fuller,
Pastor Margery Briggs, Lorraine Finison, Chancel Choir



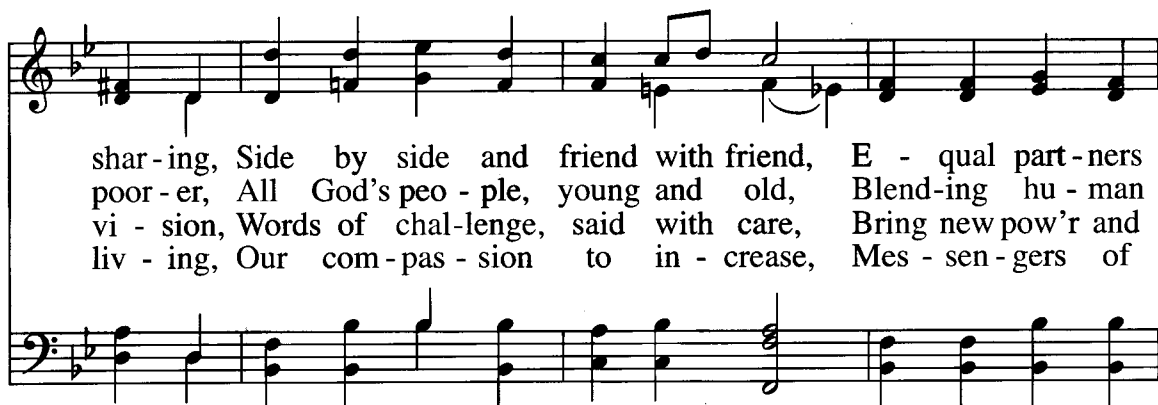
1. Called as part - ners in Christ's serv - ice, Called to min - is -
 2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to
 3. Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, In a small or
 4. So God grant us for to - mor - row Ways to or - der



tries of grace, We re - spond with deep com - mit - ment
 work and worth, Let us fol - low, nev - er fal - t'ring,
 glob - al sense, Help us bear each oth - er's bur - dens,
 hu - man life That sur - round each per - son's sor - row

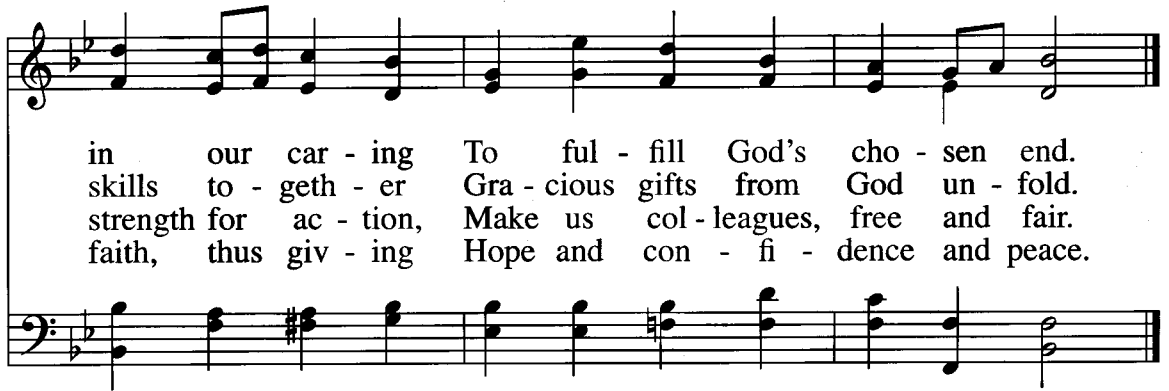


Fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of
 Rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth. Men and wom - en, rich - er,
 Break - ing down each wall or fence. Words of com - fort, words of
 With a calm that con - quers strife. Make us part - ners in our



shar - ing, Side by side and friend with friend, E - qual part - ners
 poor - er, All God's peo - ple, young and old, Blend - ing hu - man
 vi - sion, Words of chal - lenge, said with care, Bring new pow'r and
 liv - ing, Our com - pas - sion to in - crease, Mes - sen - gers of

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE



There are not enough of us to do Your work here on earth, Lord! Many of us have been in Your service for years and know that every effort we make in Your name becomes a blessing to us. The problem we have is enabling others to know that blessing as well. Lord, guide us in this endeavor! Help us seize the opportunities you present to us by providing us with the necessary words and actions to witness to the joy of a lifetime in Your service. As for me and my house, we have come to know that the longer, the deeper, and the broader our service has been to You, the closer we have come to Your presence. Help us to grow stronger in Your presence. Reveal to us the areas of life where our love has made all the difference in the life of another. Make us proud to be in Your service, and challenge us to affirm those who would join us in building Your kingdom. Thank You, Father, for the excitement of the journey we have made together. Thank You for the hills and valleys that have made life interesting, and thank You for the example of our Brother Jesus, who not only shows us how to walk in Your way, but walks for us when we are unwilling or unable. We give You all praise, because without You there is no meaning to our lives. Amen.

God Binds Us with a Mighty Cord

Joanne Reynolds

English Melody

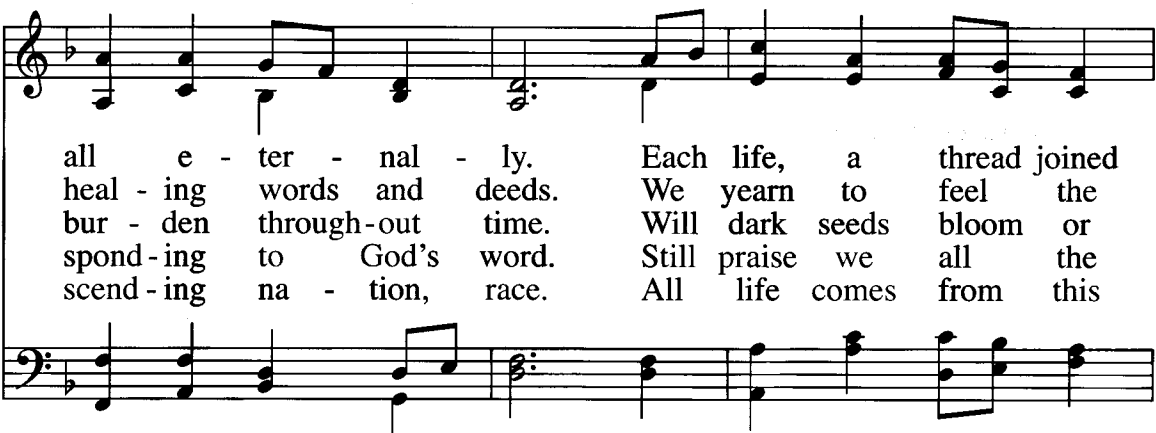
Arr. and harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958



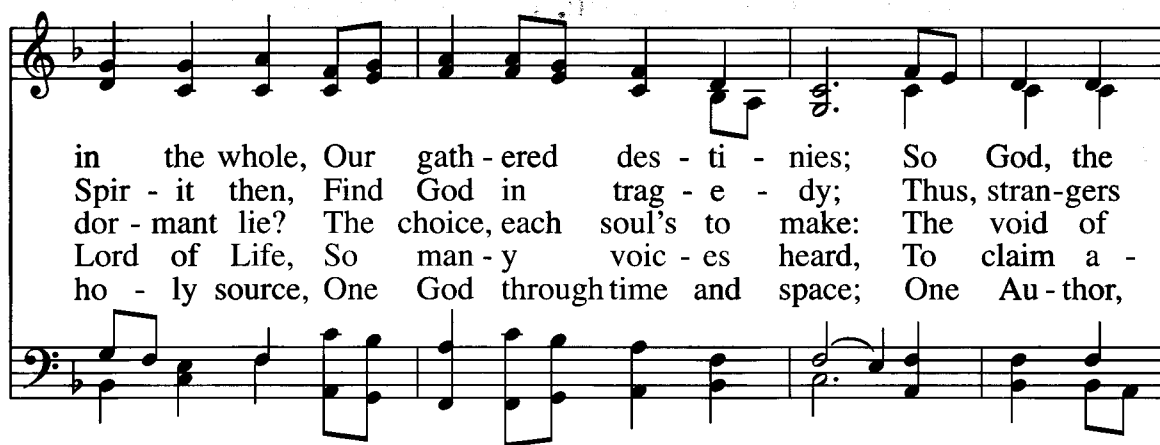
1. God binds us with a might - y cord, We sel - dom
 2. In try - ing times, God's stead - fast light Shines on a
 3. The face of e - vil we per - ceive In des - p'rate
 4. As fol - low - ers of count - less ways, Yet chil - dren
 5. For God main - tains no bor - der lines, To lim - it



feel or see; This tie, with our cre - at - ing Lord, Links
 world in need, And leads all peo - ple to u - nite, With
 deeds and crimes, Lies deep in all hu - man - i - ty: Our
 of one Lord, Di - verse com - mand - ments we o - bey, Re -
 each one's place, But cher - ish - es a grand de - sign, Tran -



all e - ter - nal - ly. Each life, a thread joined
 heal - ing words and deeds. We yearn to feel the
 bur - den through - out time. Will dark seeds bloom or
 spond - ing to God's word. Still praise we all the
 scend - ing na - tion, race. All life comes from this



in the whole, Our gath - ered des - ti - nies; So God, the
Spir - it then, Find God in trag - e - dy; Thus, stran - gers
dor - mant lie? The choice, each soul's to make: The void of
Lord of Life, So man - y voic - es heard, To claim a -
ho - ly source, One God through time and space; One Au - thor,



Weav - er, knits our souls In one great tap - es - try.
trans - form in - to friends, In ho - ly u - ni - ty.
night, or mer - cy's light, Where pa - tient - ly God waits.
gain this frag - ile tie That u - ni - fies our world.
who a - lone brings forth Lives drawn in lines of grace.

By Your Holy Spirit, O God, You bind us together as one body, and empower us to carry on the ministry that You enfleshed as Christ. In our differences, and in our moments when we wander away from one another, unite us anew. Give us fresh eyes to see the ways in which You have connected us, rather than the ways we have separated ourselves. We pray also for opportunities to strengthen the bonds between us. Send us out, but send us together, to exercise our ministry, following the directives You give us; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Numbers 6:24-26

Peter C. Lutkin, 1858-1931

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord lift His coun - te -

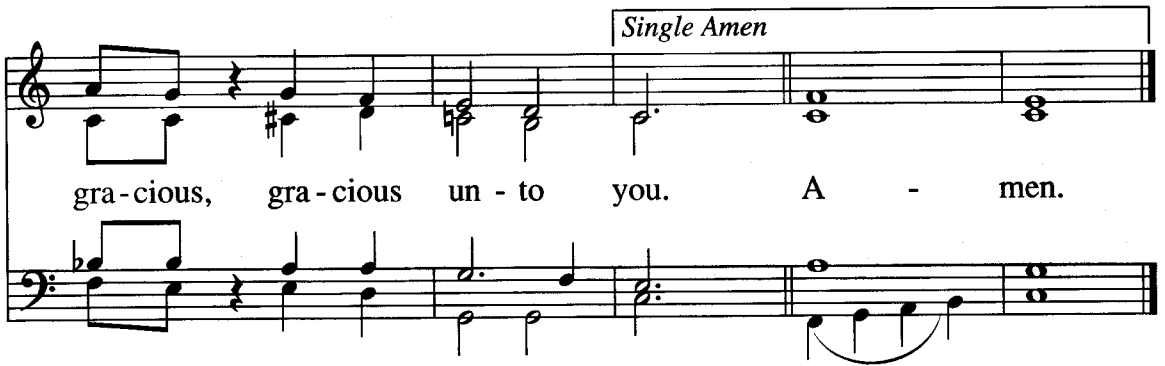
nance up - on you, and give you peace,
and give you peace, and give you

The Lord make His
and give you peace; The Lord make His face to shine up - on you,
peace;

And be gra - cious un-to you, be gra-cious, The Lord be
And be gra-cious, and be gra-cious; The Lord be

SERVICE MUSIC

Single Amen



Seven-fold Amen

