

RECONCILING IN CHRIST CELEBRATION & COMMITMENT SUNDAY



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

PASTOR CALVIN KONOP, PRESIDING
JESSICA CHRISTENSON, CYF DIRECTOR

KARINA ROTH, MUSICAL DIRECTOR

10:00 AM-JUNE 7, 2026

Today we are celebrating the culmination of the 7 year journey of education, study and discernment by the Reconciling In Christ Committee. We would like to recognize those who have served over the years: Karina Roth, Mark Abrahamson, Christy Buetow, Martha Rosbacka, Lynnea Morse, Pastor Mark Ditmanson, Pastor Jack Busche, Deacon Ben Nikodym, Pastor Calvin Konop, Mike Chmelik, Sue Hennessy, Laurie Spry and our Trinity Lutheran Church friends, Mark Hollabaugh and Jon Moe.

PRELUDE

LOVELY NEEDY PEOPLE

Verse 1:

Oh you prisoners in your cells
All you in private hells

All: Kyrie eleison

All you hungry and ignored
Who thirst for something more

All: Kyrie eleison

You who feel so lost but are afraid of
being found

You who are in chains

But are afraid to live unbound

All: Kyrie eleison

Chorus:

For all us lovely needy people
Living in this world that's spinning
Round and round and round
Round and round and round

Lord have mercy Christ have mercy

All: Kyrie eleison

KARINA ROTH

BETHLEHEM CHOIR, PETER BENNET, LEAD

Verse 2:

Oh you children ripped and torn
Battered bruised and worn

All: Kyrie eleison

All who look hate in the face
Locked in hate's embrace

All: Kyrie eleison

You who've given up

And can't see anywhere but down

You who've lost all hope

And think it's nowhere to be found

All: Kyrie eleison

Repeat Chorus

Chant:

All: There is mercy enough there is grace
enough

There is love enough for all of us

CELEBRATION & COMMITMENT LITANY

Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church congregation became a Reconciling in Christ community in 2026. Let us celebrate that journey and how it infuses our ministry of hospitality, welcome, affirmation, and justice.

WELCOME STATEMENT

In years past we have strived to live into the hospitality and promises in our welcome statement, but we know there is always more to learn and more to do to support people who have been marginalized in our community. We promise to listen to the stories and honor the experiences of neighbors who are members of the Queer community so that we can better understand the difficulties of living as themselves in our church and society.

We have open hearts and open minds and strive to learn more about our many different neighbors.

In the years ahead, we commit to continue to work towards full inclusion in our congregation and in our community. We promise to work together with others to make this space one that provides a welcome in both words and deeds, one that is safe from humiliation and violence and offers sanctuary to those cast out by families and shunned by friends.

We commit to the spirit of hospitality and authentic welcome.

We renew our commitment to welcome all who have been treated as less than or who were told they do not belong, especially transgender, non-binary, and intersex people. We also commit to welcome and support women, children, and foreigners who have been ignored or treated like property.

We commit to the work of justice and inclusion.

We renew our commitment to advocate for all Queer people as well as add a commitment to racial and gender equity. We commit to advocacy and support for immigrants regardless of status. We commit to advocacy and support for neurodiverse and disabled people, who are often targets for shaming language that diminishes their humanity.

We commit to using our voices to speak up for those who have been rendered voiceless in our church and society. We promise to continue to advocate for inclusion, affirmation, and justice in our church and in our community and in the

wider world even when we encounter resistance or ignorance, or when our steps falter as we grow tired.

We promise all these things as we take another step in our journey towards understanding God's asymmetrical love.

Let us pray: O God of compassion and liberation, guide our feet as we strive to walk the good road with Jesus, a road towards justice. We ask You to strengthen our hands as we use them to build Your Blessed Community with space at the table for all of God's beloveds. We ask You to support our voices as we speak words of welcome and compassion. We ask Your Spirit to inspire and sustain us when our hearts grow weary, when our steps falter, when our boats feel so small on an endless ocean of pain and suffering. Be with us in and out of every day and night.

And as God's children we say: Amen!

HYMN

GOD WE GATHER AS YOUR PEOPLE

ACS 1038

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen

LISTENING TO THE WORD

SUE HENNESSY

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later God glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice.

As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them, the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.

Word of God, word of freedom. Praise be to God

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

God is my light and my salvation.
Should I fear anyone?
God is a fortress protecting my life.
Should I be frightened of anything?
I have asked one thing from the God—
it's all I seek:
to live in God's house all the days of my life,
seeing your beauty
and constantly adoring your temple.
Because you will shelter me in your own dwelling
during troubling times;
you will hide me in a secret place in your own tent;
you will set me up high, safe on a rock.
Now my head is higher than the enemies surrounding me,
and I will offer sacrifices in God's tent—
sacrifices with shouts of joy!
I will sing and praise the Creator.
God, listen to my voice when I cry out—
have mercy on me and answer me!
Come, my heart says, seek your Creator's face.
God, I do seek your face!
Please don't hide it from me!
Don't push your servant aside angrily—
you have been my help!
God who saves me,
don't neglect me!
Don't leave me all alone!

Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-2

See what kind of love the Creator has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are! Because the world did not recognize God, it does not recognize us. Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when God appears we will be like God because we'll see God as God is.

Word of God, word of freedom. Praise be to God

Gospel:

Matthew 4:12-23

The Word made flesh dwells among us. **Full of grace and truth.**

Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light, and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and in the shadow of death.

From that time Jesus began to announce, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!”

As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” Right away, they left their nets and followed him. Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John.

They were in a boat with Zebedee, their father, repairing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.

This is the Good News of Jesus Christ **Praise to you, Word of life!**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

JESS CHRISTENSON

SERMON

PASTOR CALVIN KONOP

HYMN OF THE DAY

JESUS, YOU HAVE TRULY CALLED US

Verse 1:

Jesus, you have truly called us.
Still, today, we hear your voice.
Lead us onward, lead us upward,
Till all people can rejoice

Refrain:

Meet us in our time of trial,
Fill us with your Spirit’s power.
As we stand before oppression,
Give us courage for this hour.

(Continued on next page)

Verse 2:

Jesus, save us from poor choices.
Hatred, running like a thread
Through the fabric of our history,
Mars our faith and leaves us dead.

Refrain:

Meet us in our time of trial,
Fill us with your Spirit's power.
As we stand before oppression,
Give us courage for this hour.

Verse 3:

Jesus, save us from our weakness,
From deceit and from despair.
Move us on to new creation
In a world that's free and fair.

Refrain:

Meet us in our time of trial,
Fill us with your Spirit's power.
As we stand before oppression,
Give us courage for this hour.

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and earth, architect of time, quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground, and by your breath we are given life.

We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human. You lived among us to reveal your justice, died among us to break the bonds of sin and death, and were raised among us to bring abundant life.

We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit, draws us into community, moves us to action, and inspires us to hope against hope. You breathe new life into a fallen world and equip us to proclaim the good news of resurrecting love. All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Creator in prayer. *(A brief silence.)*

We pray for our pastors, deacons, bishops, and church leaders, that they may guide us well as we become a loving, welcoming, and resilient community in Jesus Christ. We give thanks for ReconcilingWorks and all of our Reconciling in Christ ministry partners. We pray that the whole church may someday become a blessed community where all our Queer siblings are celebrated. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to our church.**

We pray for the sustainability of our planet. Guide us to care for creation, be mindful of how much we throw away, reduce how much carbon dioxide our lifestyles add to the air we breathe, and remember how much our choices impact the lives of people in poor and marginalized communities. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to our church.**

We pray for our siblings all around the world. We pray that leaders everywhere recognize and respond to the suffering of the poor, marginalized, and persecuted. We pray that governments enact laws that protect and defend the poor, marginalized, and persecuted. We pray that your hand of justice intercedes for us. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to our church.**

We pray for people who have chaos swirling around and within them. We pray for those that have been told they are less than, wrong, or an outcast for who they are. We pray that all of us find true peace, joy, and wholeness in you. We pray for people who are victims of violence because of homophobia, racism, sexism, and ableism. We pray for your mercy, love, and healing to care for them. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to our church.**

We pray that our congregation and its ministries uplift and care for all living things in our world. We pray that we work towards justice and peace in our own family and community. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to our church.**

We pray for LGBTQIA+ saints, all our siblings who have gone before us in the fight for justice, freedom, and peace, even when church and society ignored them and many of your Queer children forgot them. Help us remember and honor the memory of the people who have boldly stood as themselves, showing the substance you created even when the world told them to hide. Spirit, intercede for us, **Send wholeness to this community of Queer people and allies.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy wisdom. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

Offering

Verse 1:

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

FOR EVERYONE BORN

Refrain:

And God will delight when we are
creators of justice
and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators
of justice,
Justice and joy!

BETHLEHEM CHOIR

(Continued on next page)

Verse 2:

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song.
The hands of a child in hands that are
wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong

Refrain:

And God will delight when we are
creators of justice
and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are
creators of justice,
Justice and joy!

Verse 3:

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to speak out, to
witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free!

Refrain:

And God will delight when we are
creators of justice
and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are
creators of justice,
Justice and joy!

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray: O God, from nothing you created not only us as your beloved children but everything we would need to have an abundant life. As we bring our varied gifts to you, strengthen us as we celebrate the diversity you have blessed us with. Fill us with what we need and help us to recognize that there is more than enough for all as we work to bring your love to the ends of the earth. Amen.

LITURGY FOR THE TABLE

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God . . . As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of many names . . . Blessed and holy Trinity, Now and always. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us . . .

Heavenly God, giver of life, holy is your name, your blessed community come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For you reign in power and glory now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS

ALL BELONG HERE (THE MANY)

Verse 1:

When you're not sure who you really are
When all you feel is the shape of your scars
And you have more wounds than you can count
Open your eyes, look all around
You aren't alone, this is your home

Chorus:

Come and remember who you are here
Do this to remember who I am
Come and remember you belong here
All belong here

Verse 2:

When you don't know how to forgive
When locked doors seem like the only way to live
And you've got more questions than you can count

Open your eyes, look all around
You aren't alone, this is your home

Chorus:

Come and remember who you are here
Do this to remember who I am
Come and remember you belong here
All belong here

Bridge:

At this table come as you are
Broken and bleeding's ok
At this table eat and be filled
Come and drink in this grace.

Chorus:

Come and remember who you are here
Do this to remember who I am
Come and remember you belong here
All belong here

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LOVE HAS BROUGHT US HERE TOGETHER

ACS 1040

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus our friend and savior, your life, death, and resurrection changed our world. May this meal of bread and wine bless us and sustain us in the building of a blessed community which welcomes all people, that sees all people, and that works for justice for all people. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

All the colors of the rainbow
All the voices of the wind
Every dream that reaches out
That reaches out to find where love begins
Every word of every story
Every star in every sky
Every corner of creation lives to testify

For as long as I shall live
I will testify to love
I'll be a witness in the silences
when words are not enough
With every breath I take
I will give thanks to God above
For as long as I shall live
I will testify to love

From the mountains to the valleys
From the rivers to the sea
Every hand that reaches out
Every hand that reaches out to offer peace
Every simple act of mercy
Every step to kingdom come

TESTIFY TO LOVE

All the hope in every heart will speak
what love has done
For as long as I shall live
I will testify to love

I'll be a witness in the silences
when words are not enough
With every breath I take
will give thanks to God above
For as long as I shall live
I will testify....
I will testify to love
(For as long as I shall live
I will testify to love)

I'll be a witness in the silences
when words are not enough
With every breath I take
Will give thanks to God above
For as long as I shall live
I will testify to love

Testify to Love by Ralph van Manen, Robert Riekerk, Henk Pool, and Paul Field .
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SENDING

Go in peace to seek justice for all people. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

KARINA ROTH

Please join us for the
celebration following
the service!

