

February 23, 2025
7th Sunday after Epiphany
Worship Sunday



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Barb Janski

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen & Worship Team

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns and/ or bulletin.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

I Will Call upon the Lord

arr. Medema

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Jesus, You praised work more than words, foundations more than fashion. May we find our foundation in the work of Love; demanding, tiring, true and human and holy. Because Love is the only foundation worth building on. Amen.

-Pádraig Ó Tuama

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 36

Your love, O God, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;
you save all your creatures, O God.

how priceless is your love, O God;
your people take refuge under your wings.

*OPENING SONG

#301 Let Us Build a House

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God has created us to live lives of holiness and wholeness, yet this creation of God's has been fractured by our sin. In honesty and in humility let us confess our sin, relying on God's abundant mercy.

God of peace, you command us to love one another and live in peace with our neighbors. Yet, because of our closed minds, prejudice, and indifference, we frequently choose violence and war, we discriminate against minorities and the marginalized, we suppress basic human rights, we contribute to or ignore conflicts instead of working to resolve them. We reject others who bear your image and thus reject you. We pray for courage, wisdom, and humility. Empower us by your Spirit to embrace one another and walk peacefully together. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Friends believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Alleluia, Amen!

***RESPONSE**

#447 We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

Since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation.

WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

O God, you have searched us and you know us, open us now to know you more fully and more deeply in the reading of your word. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 (NRSV)

3Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" 15And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 (NRSV)

35But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" 36Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

42So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 45Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

50What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SONG OF PRAISE

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

Verse 2

Made for the glory of God
Purchased by His precious Son
Born with the right to be clean
For Jesus the vict'ry has won

Verse 3

You are the fam'ly of God
You are the promise divine
You are God's chosen desire
You are the glorious new wine

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:27-38 (NRSV)

27"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.

31Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.

Forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down,

shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

Abide in My Love

Agre

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life."
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*



*PRAISE REFRAIN

#710 We Lift Our Voices

We lift our voices, we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

from The Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O Lord our rock, our hearts rejoice in you.

Holy One, our strength rises up
with joy in your deliverance!

You know our every action,
and you lift up those who stumble.

We pray that your peace would shatter the weapons of war,
that your justice would humble those who fill themselves to overflowing,
that those who are starving now would find food in abundance.

Transform us into messengers of your justice and peace.

We pray for lives that feel barren,
for hearts that are bereaved,
for all who are trapped by the power of death.
We pray for those dear ones who are close to our hearts...
we trust they are also close to your heart.

Transform us into bearers of your healing and comfort.

You, Lord, turn death into life.
You, Lord, turn poverty into wealth
and tear down the unjust wealth that drives people into poverty.
When the world sweeps away those who are poor like dust
and tosses out those in need as if they were garbage,
you lift them up and restore them to honor.

Renew our faith in you and our courage to follow your way.

You who established the pillars of the earth,
guard our hearts and guide our feet,
so we might be now and ever faithful
to your world-transforming covenant faithfulness.
We pray in Jesus' name,
who prays with us as we seek your kingdom...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING SONG

#300 We Are One in the Spirit

*BLESSING AND SENDING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Blessing

Verse

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his

Chorus

Amen Amen Amen

Face toward you
And give you peace

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

arr. Shackley

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from the Saint Helena Psalter, produced by the Order of Saint Helena.

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

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Abide in My Love Michael Agre ©2024

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shrove "Tuesday" CCC: Join us for a Pancake Breakfast **TODAY at 10:30am**. The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a pancake breakfast including a little history lesson about what Shrove Tuesday is and how it marks the beginning of Lent.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next Blood Drive will be **March 3rd from noon to 6pm**. Sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org, enter 55313. There is a sign up sheet outside the office for volunteer opportunities!

Ash Wednesday Service: Join us as we open the season of Lent in worship with our friends at Spirit of Joy on **March 5th at 6:30pm**.

A Congregational Meeting to Elect officers has been called by the Session for **Sunday, March 9th** following worship.

Lenten Soup Suppers: Wednesdays March 12th through April 9th. We will be sharing our Soup Suppers with our friends at Spirit of Joy. These suppers will be from 6-7:30pm. The sign up sheet is out in the Narthex. Please sign up to help set up, clean up, or bring a soup to share. We will be joined by SOJ and they are also signing up to help. This will be a great opportunity to continue getting to know our siblings in Christ.

SPOT: Learn to bake bread! Deb Anderson and Kathy Quady will have a SPOT offering to demonstrate how to make bread. You will make the dough, knead it, and take it home to raise and bake. We will provide the ingredients and equipment, so PLEASE **sign up by Thursday, March 13th**. We will gather at **10AM on Saturday, March 15th** in the Fellowship Room. See you then

How can we pray for you?

Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



BPC Prayer List:

- Windi Willete
- Dennis Sleetten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jimm and Jodie Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

Upcoming This Week

Today

9:30a Worship
10:30a CCC: Pancake Breakfast

Monday

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe

Wednesday

7:00p Adult Choir

Thursday

7:30a People of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

9:30a Worship with Communion
10:30a CCC

Buffalo Presbyterian Church

507 Calder Ave NE, Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

office@buffalopresbyterian.org

www.BuffaloPresbyterian.org

(763) 682-2773

Brian Entz, Pastor
Mike Agre, Choir Director
Ralph Johansen, Organist
Mike Quady, Clerk of Session
Christy Wood, Administrative Assistant

301

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm



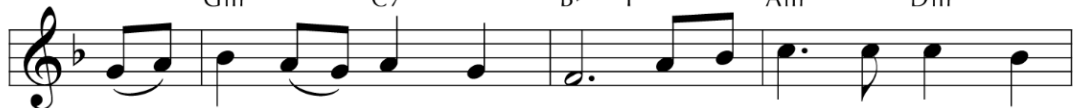
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C



safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm



how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

THE CHURCH

Refrain

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

We Are One in the Spirit 300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) Bbm (Em) Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) Bbm (Em) Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) Db (Em) Fm

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

(Am) Bbm (Em) Fm (Am) Bbm (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm (Am/E) Bbm/F (Em) Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.