



August 30, 2026
Sunday Gathering

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-PRELUDE-

"I Will Always Love You" – Dolly Parton

Brenda Gardiner

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-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT-

We acknowledge that the place where we are gathered today is the ancient and ancestral homeland of more than twenty Indigenous tribes. We mourn the loss of their lives, livelihoods, homes, and cultures, and acknowledge the legacy of violence against them.

We acknowledge that the space where we worship today was established and built by those whose Black ancestors were also abused and mistreated - some even bought and sold as enslaved people right here in our city.

We acknowledge the women who've faced unfair treatment and misogyny throughout the ages, and we acknowledge those who identify as LGBTQ or other who've been mistreated and misunderstood.

We acknowledge our role and responsibility as professed followers of Christ to stand for and alongside all of these and others who have been and continue to be oppressed.

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Welcome"

LET'S WALK TOGETHER FOR A WHILE
AND ASK WHERE WE BEGIN
TO BUILD A WORLD WHERE LOVE CAN GROW
AND HOPE CAN ENTER IN,
TO BE THE HANDS OF HEALING
AND TO PLANT THE SEEDS OF PEACE.

SINGING WELCOME,
WELCOME TO THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE INVITED
TO COME AND KNOW GOD'S GRACE.
ALL ARE WELCOME,
THE LOVE OF GOD TO SHARE.
'CAUSE ALL OF US ARE WELCOME HERE;
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

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-WELCOME & GREETING-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-
"Welcome"

LET'S TALK TOGETHER OF A TIME
WHEN WE WILL SHARE A FEAST,
WHERE PRIDE AND POWER KNEEL TO SERVE
THE LONELY AND THE LEAST,
AND JOY WILL SET THE TABLE
AS WE JOIN OUR HANDS TO PRAY.

SINGING WELCOME,
WELCOME TO THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE INVITED
TO COME AND KNOW GOD'S GRACE.
ALL ARE WELCOME,
THE LOVE OF GOD TO SHARE.
'CAUSE ALL OF US ARE WELCOME HERE;
ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.

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-CALL TO WORSHIP-
Come, people of God,
with all your colors, all your stories,
all your scars, and all your sparkle.
COME, BECAUSE THERE IS ROOM
FOR ALL OF US IN GOD'S LOVE.

Come remembering that what the world calls scraps
God can weave into something beautiful.
GOD TAKES THE PIECES OF OUR LIVES
AND MAKES SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL AND BRIGHT.

Come from long days of nine-to-five struggles
and our midnight worries.
GIVE US STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY
AND COMPASSION FOR ONE ANOTHER.

We come living our mismatched and colorful lives
seeking the light of a clear blue morning.
BECAUSE THROUGH LOVING AND GIVING HEARTS
GOD'S LIGHT IS STILL BREAKING THROUGH.

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-OPENING PRAYER-

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-GREETING ONE ANOTHER-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"For All the Children"

GOD, WE GATHER AS YOUR PEOPLE
TO RAISE OUR SONG ABOVE,
AND WE DARE TO CLAIM THE PROMISE OF YOUR LOVE,
THOUGH THE DAY MAY NOT YET BE HERE
WE TRUST IT SOON WILL BE,
WHEN ALL PEOPLE WILL BE FREE.

O, MAY OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BE OPENED,
FLING THE CHURCH DOORS OPEN WIDE.
MAY THERE BE ROOM ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE INSIDE.
FOR IN GOD THERE IS A WELCOME,
IN GOD WE ALL BELONG.
MAY THAT WELCOME BE OUR SONG.

OH, WE SING FOR ALL THE PEOPLE,
THAT ONE DAY THEY BE FREE;
AND WE SING FOR GENERATIONS YET TO BE,
THAT THEY NEVER HAVE A REASON
TO DOUBT THAT THEY ARE BLEST.
MAY THEY, IN YOUR LOVE, FIND REST.

O, MAY OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BE OPENED,
FLING THE CHURCH DOORS OPEN WIDE.
MAY THERE BE ROOM ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE INSIDE.
FOR IN GOD THERE IS A WELCOME,
IN GOD WE ALL BELONG.
MAY THAT WELCOME BE OUR SONG.

GOD, WE'RE WORKING FOR A FUTURE
WHEN PEOPLE FAR AND WIDE
CAN LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH DIGNITY AND PRIDE.
AS THEY GROW IN STRENGTH AND STATURE,
MAY THEY JOIN US HAND IN HAND,
AS AGAINST ALL HATE WE STAND.

O, MAY OUR HEARTS AND MINDS BE OPENED,
FLING THE CHURCH DOORS OPEN WIDE.
MAY THERE BE ROOM ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE INSIDE.
FOR IN GOD THERE IS A WELCOME,
IN GOD WE ALL BELONG.
MAY THAT WELCOME BE OUR SONG.

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-SCRIPTURE-

Matthew 16: 21-28 (CEB)

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." But he turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay each one for what that person has done. I assure you that some standing here won't die before they see the Human One coming in his kingdom."

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-THE MESSAGE-

"Dolly Said"

Kenny Bishop

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"If We Never Meet Again"

IF WE NEVER MEET AGAIN THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN,
AS WE STRUGGLE THROUGH THIS WORLD AND ITS STRIFE,
THERE'S ANOTHER MEETING PLACE SOMEWHERE IN HEAVEN
BY THE SIDE OF THE RIVER OF LIFE.

WHERE THE CHARMING ROSES BLOOM FOREVER,
AND WHERE SEPARATIONS COME NEVERMORE.
IF WE NEVER MEET AGAIN THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN,
I WILL MEET YOU ON THAT BEAUTIFUL SHORE.

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-JOYS & CONCERNS-

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-PASTORAL PRAYER-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"The Open Table"

COME, OH COME, COME TO THE TABLE.
GATHER 'ROUND, COME WITHOUT FEAR.
KNOWN BY NAME HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE, TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

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-INVITATION TO COMMUNION-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"The Open Table"

COME, OH COME, COME TO THE TABLE.
GATHER 'ROUND, COME WITHOUT FEAR.
KNOWN BY NAME HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE, TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

CIRCLE 'ROUND, LET'S JOIN TOGETHER.
SHARE YOUR JOYS, AND BRING YOUR TEARS.
STRENGTH AND HOPE FOUND AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE, TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

GOD IS LOVE; LOVE IS CREATING
SOMETHING NEW, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
WE'RE CHILDREN OF GOD, HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE, TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

COME, OH COME, COME TO THE TABLE.
GATHER 'ROUND, COME WITHOUT FEAR.
KNOWN BY NAME HERE AT THE TABLE, THIS TABLE;
WELCOME HERE, TO THE TABLE OF LOVE.

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-IN GRATITUDE-

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-OFFERING-

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-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

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-INVITATION TO RESPOND-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Draw the Circle Wide"

DRAW THE CIRCLE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE.
DRAW THE CIRCLE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE.
NO ONE STANDS ALONE,
WE'LL STAND SIDE BY SIDE.
DRAW THE CIRCLE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE.

DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE,
DRAW IT WIDER STILL.
LET THIS BE OUR SONG:
NO ONE STANDS ALONE.
STANDING SIDE BY SIDE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE.

DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE,
DRAW IT WIDER STILL.
LET THIS BE OUR SONG:
NO ONE STANDS ALONE.
STANDING SIDE BY SIDE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE.
DRAW THE CIRCLE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE.

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-BLESSING & BENEDICTION-

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-SINGING TOGETHER-

"Draw the Circle Wide"

DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE,
DRAW IT WIDER STILL.
LET THIS BE OUR SONG:
NO ONE STANDS ALONE.
STANDING SIDE BY SIDE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE.
DRAW THE CIRCLE,
DRAW THE CIRCLE WIDE.