

First Presbyterian Church, New Haven, CT  
Worship Bulletin  
August 30, 2020  
Preacher: Rev. J.C. Cadwallader  
Prayers of the People: Rev. Arthur Shippee

**Call to Worship**

One: "Truly I tell you," says Jesus,  
"Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,  
And whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

**All: May we be bound with love.**

One: To bind, to be bound, to be bound with so many competing demands and expectations.

**All: May we be bound with love.**

One: Bound now, bound forever  
Bound with whom and for what?

**All: May we be bound with love.**

One: What shall we carry with us into eternity? Our gold? Our politics? Our relationships?  
Which? For with this choice we will be bound in heaven.

**All: May we be bound with love. Come, let us worship God!**

**Hymn 316**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail* Jenny Davis, Alisa Dunovant,  
Bruce Peabody, Ken Balakrishnan

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son.  
As members of each body joined, in him we are made one.

Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.  
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.

Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,  
That we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

Love can exclude no race or creed if honored by God's name;  
Our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

## Call to Reconciliation

### Prayer of Confession

One: Merciful God, you call us to live honest and transparent lives as people seeking your light. We confess the times when we have failed, when our thoughts and desires and actions did not honor your name.

**All: In Your mercy, forgive us and teach us.**

One: You call us to love one another, to love others as deeply as we have been loved by You. We come to you with the truth that at times, we fail. And our own fragility hinders us.

**All: In Your mercy, forgive us.**

One: You call us to deal honorably with one another, even those who have hurt or offended us; to work through our disagreements with love and integrity. We confess the times when we have failed, finding it easier to simply walk away, choosing to avoid or minimize.

**All: Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us. Place in us a desire to know you and let that desire pull us forward ever closer to you; to restoration. Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

One: May all that is unforgiven in you be released. May your fears yield their deepest tranquilities. May all that is un-lived in you blossom into a future graced with Love. Friends, believe the Good News:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

### Response

*My Life Flows On, vs. 1*

Alisa Dunovant, soloist

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm when to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

### Prayer of Illumination

**First Scripture Reading** Psalm 149

**Second Scripture Reading** Matthew 18: 15-20

### Sermon

### Moment of Silence

## **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Call to the Offering**

### **Offertory 684**

#### *Faith Begins by Letting Go*

Latham Family

Faith begins by letting go,  
giving up what had seemed sure,  
taking risks and pressing on,  
though the way feels less secure:  
pilgrimage both right and odd,  
trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on,  
keeping memory's roots alive  
so that hope may bear its fruit;  
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,  
not through merit we possess  
but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out,  
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,  
sharing struggles, living prayer,  
binding up the broken parts;  
till we find the commonplace  
ripe with witness to God's grace.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **Charge/Benediction**