

## CLOSING WORDS: RIPPLING FORTH

Pastor: Actions create ripples of reactions. As we prepare to move back into the larger world, we do so praying that the result of our worship time will create acts of kindness that extend far beyond our knowing. Let's just see what can happen when we turn up the volume of kindness and treat others as we would hope to be treated. Let us "Do Unto Others" with ever-deepening understanding that lasts far beyond this moment in history. Let us continue into the unknown future with a hope that we can survive, we can thrive, together—no matter the outcomes of a divided world. Let us sing our closing hymn as a way of beginning to ripple forth from here, spreading healing to all in this land.

**HYMN** *For the Healing of the Nations* Chalice, #668

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Holy One show us the way to *Do Unto Others* with **Kindness**. May the Christ whose Light is the Center of all that is, ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of God's love. May the Spirit show forth through you in extraordinary acts of kindness you never imagined you had the power to achieve. And may you know the peace that surpasses all understanding, especially when it is difficult to understand. And all the people said,

*All people:* **AMEN and AMEN!**  
*All SING:* *We will tear down the walls.*  
*We will tear down every wall.*  
*God has called us one and all;*  
*Christ has broken down the wall,*  
*Christ has broken down the wall.*

**ALL DEPART IN HOPE...  
WITH THE GOAL OF SPREADING KINDNESS AND PEACE.**

**POSTLUDE** Mr. Kevin Crone

### Resources

- Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License: #A-733911. All music printed or posted on PowerPoint with permission: CCLI #1528365
- This Worship Series is a collaboration between Worship Design Studio and Church of the Resurrection with their Campaign for Kindness. All material purchased by Pastor Laura Baker and is being used with permission.

August 11, 2024  
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
**RED AND BLUE MAKE PURPLE: KINDNESS**

## PREWORSHIP MUSIC GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING

Mr. Kevin Crone  
Rev. Laura Baker

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Today we begin a bold and brave worship series in which we face the spiritual consequences of the divisions in our society. I want to ask you a mind-blowing question: Did you know that more than 99% of our DNA is the same from one human to another? This surely makes us "kin" or family. The word "kindness" originally developed from a root word that meant "kin" or "family" or "with the feeling of relatives for each other." We begin this series considering the implications of spending so much of our time feeling estranged from, and resentful toward, those whose less than 1% DNA moves them in a different direction from us. Over the next several weeks, we will begin to dream of finding a "purple space" in which to exchange Christ's goodness. Let us sing now, in one voice, as the Christ candle is carried in and lighted.

*All SING:* *Christ has broken down the wall. Christ has broken down the wall.*  
*Let us join our hearts as one. Christ has broken down the wall.*

Pastor: The act of simply coming together in "revolutionary," which in its earliest form meant "finding a course around a central point." We gather with the Light of Christ as the center and guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. This is our kindness revolution. Let us pray, then sing in a unified voice.

*All people:* *God of mercy, we ask you to come mighty close, for we are a divided world, and we are not sure of our footing in this moment. Steady us, and invite us to "do unto others" in ways that build up you kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center That Holds, and in the power of the Spirit that Transforms. Amen.*

*All SING:* *We're accepted as we are. We're accepted as we are.*  
*Through God's powers, all is reconciled. We're accepted as we are.*  
*Cast aside our doubts and fears. Cast aside our doubts and fears.*  
*Peace and love freely offered here. Cast aside our doubts and fears.*

## PEACE ACROSS THE DIVIDE

Liturgist 1: I glimpse you from afar, and I'm suspicious.  
Liturgist 2: I cannot understand you, and it makes me afraid.  
Liturgist 1: What if we are too different?  
Liturgist 2: What if you don't care about me?  
Liturgist 1: I cannot imagine we have anything to share.  
Liturgist 2: I'm not sure I am willing to open myself to a conversation.

Pastor: Wait!  
**Congregation:** **BREATHE.**  
Pastor: Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment.  
**Congregation:** **Breathe again.**  
Pastor: We are NOT alone.  
**Congregation:** **Christ is with us and in us.**  
Pastor: Let us take a deep breath together.

**All people:** *(Deeply breath in and slowly exhale.)*

Pastor: The rhythm of our breath and heartbeat is the same. Our desire for life and love is the same. Our desire for a peace in which we flourish is the same. Let this moment permeate our souls, and let us pass the peace of Christ between us. This peace is meant for all people. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All people:** *And also with you.*

*(Please stand in spirit and/or body)*

**HYMN** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* **Chalice, #677**

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

**JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** **2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33**

**GOSPEL READING** **Luke 6:31-36**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Come Down O Love Divine* (Busarow)

**SERMON** *Purple Kindness*

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor: Jesus' ministry demonstrated an alternative story to the ones that were espoused in his day. He taught that "the last shall be first," "love your enemies"... and even invited unlikely guests to dinner. Our response to the invitation of Christ to be his Body in the world is to make these alternative sacred narratives more real in our own lives for the sake of the world. We come to prayer today as "others." In Jesus' edict to "do unto others," we are all someone else's "other." We are all unknown or

different to someone. And yet, as we have learned today, we are only less than 1% "other." And so, we pray together the Prayers of the People, for we are both "other" and "the same." Your response is "for ourselves and others." Let us pray:  
We pray for safety...

**All people:** *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for healing,

**All people:** *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for the spiritual capacity for kindness,

**All people:** *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for freedom to live,

**All people:** *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: Holy, Loving, Kind and Merciful God...

We pray all these things through Christ, who taught us to pray:

**All 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

## **OFFERING INVITATION**

Liturgist: God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, we offer our lives back to God — we share our time, our skills, our money and in so doing, we say "yes" to God's invitation to join in Christ's Kingdom building work here on earth. Let us dedicate all we offer with a song and prayer.

*(Please stand in spirit and/or body)*

**DOXOLOGY** **Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God all creatures here below!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Help us to work together well, offering our kindness to the world.*

*Follow Jesus. Praise the Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**All people:** *Bountiful God, all that we can offer you stems from your generosity. May the gifts that we return to you become a blessing for your whole community, enriching and empowering us for the work to which you call us. Amen.*