

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
 Nicodemus Series: Bless Their Hearts!  
 August 15, 2021  
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**PRELUDE**

*They'll Know we are Christians by Our Love  
 How Beautiful  
 I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****GREETING****CALL TO WORSHIP** (The Apostle's Creed)

Pastor: Let us testify to what we believe, using the Apostle's Creed:

*All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven; he is seated on the right hand of the Father; and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**HYMN**

*The Church's One Foundation*

**Bulletin, Page 4**

**ACT OF CONFESSION**

Pastor: When we gather as God's people, the church, we remember that we have preferred our will to God's. Accepting the power of the Spirit to be renewed in Christ, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*All: God of grace, we grieve that the church, which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and one calling, has become a broken community in a broken world. The one body spans all time, place, race, and language, but in our fear, we have fled from and fought one another, and in our pride, we have mistaken our part for the whole. Yet we marvel that you gather the pieces to do your work, that you bless us with joy, with growth, and with signs of unity. Forgive our sins and help us to commit ourselves to seeking and showing the unity of the body of Christ. Amen.*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (Based on Ezekiel 36:26)

Pastor: "I will put a new heart and spirit within you; I will remove from you, your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh," says the Lord God. Children of God, hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed."

*All: Thanks be to our Lord. We will strive to live as the holy body of Christ.*

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: As we have been given peace through Christ, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other, using the words: The peace of Christ be with you...

*All: And, also with you.*

**EPISTLE READING**

**1 Corinthians 12:1- 31**

**GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 16:13-20; 28:1-20**

**SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER***Bless Their Hearts!***Rev. Laura C. Bair****OFFERING INVITATION**

Liturgist: All the rules and laws of our faith can be summed up in the law of love for God and one another. Everything “hangs” on that – the law of love. We don’t just talk about love here at Starview United Church of Christ; we bring it to life in ministry: we offer hospitality, we build community, we act in compassion, we do justice work, and in all these things we worship and love God, and we offer our love to our neighbor. That is what this ministry, and our gifts, are about, and all of it hangs on love. Let us offer our gifts of time, talent, and money to God in gratitude and praise.

**OFFERTORY PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*All: God of life, we pray that our unity will be seen not only in what we believe but also in how we work together - as one holy catholic church. May our gifts today be a sign for each other and the world, that we pledge to work together in your name for the healing of this broken and hurting world. We continue to pray through Christ, who taught us: 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.*

**HYMN***Blest Be the Tie That Binds***Bulletin, Page 3****BENEDICTION** (Based on Ephesians 4:1-3 and 1 Peter 1:16)

Pastor: People of God – BE the Church.  
 “Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, and making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

**Congregation: God who called us is holy;  
 so then, shall we be holy in all we do.  
 This means, we will love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength,  
 and we will love our neighbor as we love ourselves.**

Pastor: May it be so. In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*All: Amen.*

**POSTLUDE***Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

# Blest Be The Tie That Binds

John Fawcett

Hans G. Nageli

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our  
 2. Be fore our Fa - ther's throne, We  
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our  
 4. When we a - sun - der part, It

4  
 hearts in Chris - tian love; The  
 pour our ar - dent prayers; Our  
 mu - tual bur - dens bear; And  
 gives us in - ward pain; But

7  
 fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is  
 fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our  
 of - ten for each oth - er flows The  
 we shall still be joined in heart, And

11  
 like to forts, that a - bove.  
 com - pa - and thiz our cares.  
 sym - pa - to and thiz our tear.  
 hope to meet a - gain.

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## The Church's One Foundation

C F C G C F C G7 C

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 'Mid toil and tri - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,  
 4 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

G7 C Eaug E F Em F G C D7 G

she is his new cre - a - tion, by wa - ter and the word:  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more,  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won:

C F C Am E Am A Dm

from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

G C F C F Dm G C

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - ery grace en - dued.  
 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.