

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 compassion 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, creating ties of compassion that bind us together.

HYMN *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* **Chalice, #433**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Holy One show us the way to *Do Unto Others* with **Compassion**. May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of love. May the Spirit show forth through you in extraordinary acts 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 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 BEING COMPASSIONATE AND KIND...**

POSTLUDE **Mr. Kevin Crone**

Resources

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August 18, 2024
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
The Polarization Within: Compassion

**PREWORSHIP MUSIC
GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING**

**Mr. Kevin Crone
Rev. Laura Baker**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Today, we continue our worship series that invites us to consider the qualities that will help us navigate the divisions we are experiencing in our world. This week, we consider compassion. Why do we need this quality more than ever now? Because we are complex beings living in a complex world. We sometimes deal with conflict within us in addition to the conflict between us. Research tells us that because we humans are desperate for a sense of cohesion and belonging in these confusing times, we are hanging onto ideological generalities instead of treating ourselves and each other with the compassion required to alleviate despair. Compassion grows when we are able to know ourselves and one another on a deeper level and act out of understanding. Let us sing now, in one voice, as the Christ candle is 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 compassion revolution. Let us pray, then sing in a unified voice.

All people: *Reconciling God, we ask you to help us open to compassion, for we are a divided world, and the conflict is waging even within us in this moment. Empower us, and invite us to "do unto ourselves and others" in ways that build up your 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: Sometimes I can't make out my own thoughts, much less yours.
Liturgist 2: Making sense of this life and this time seems unreachable.
Liturgist 1: What if we never figure it out?
Liturgist 2: What if we become too estranged?
Liturgist 1: I cannot imagine your viewpoint.
Liturgist 2: I'm not sure I am willing to believe that any solution will work.

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 *Jesu. Jesu* **Chalice, #600**

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

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING **1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14**

FOCUS SCRIPTURE READING **Isaiah 11:6-9**

SPECIAL MUSIC

SERMON *The Polarization Within: Compassion*

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Jesus was in the business of healing, whether that was physical or spiritual—and often those two things were intertwined. His alternative narrative that all people are worthy of healing and whole relationship inspires us in our response to be his Body in the world, making these alternative sacred narratives more real in our own lives for the sake of the world. We come to prayer today as those who are in need of compassion.

Our most bonding realization in times of trial are that we are all hurting and in need. Ironically, it is in times of feeling hurt that we are most likely to hurt others. This is an invalid flawed situation, and so we call on the God of Overcoming to help us address wounds with comfort, not further infecting and inflicting pain. And so we pray together the prayers of the people with a depth of faithful compassion for each other's plight. We pray for healing...

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for belonging,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for the spiritual capacity for compassion,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: We pray for the ability to reach out beyond walls,

All people: *for ourselves and others.*

Pastor: Holy, Loving, Compassionate 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.*