

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 343

BEECHER 8.7.8.7 D

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John Zundel, 1870

1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, Called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, In a small or glob-al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to - mor-row Ways to or - der hu - man life

We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, Rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, Break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per - son's sor-row With a calm that con - quers strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, Side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, All God's peo - ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi - sion, Words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, Our com - pas - sion to in - crease,

E - qual part-ners in our car-ing To ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er Gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, Make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing Hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

PRELUDE

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Jesus began his ministry by calling disciples to follow him and be in mission for him.
 Congregation: **Jesus is still calling disciples to carry out his mission in the world.**
 Pastor: Our mission is an all-inclusive one - to share Christ with all the world.
 Congregation: **We have good news to tell!**
We pray that we will miss no one as we share Christ's message.

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: Well, let's jump right in, then, and share good news. Welcome and greet one another by Passing the Peace of Christ, using British Sign Language...

HYMN

Called as Partner's in Christ's Service

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us pause in our singing and praising to confess the sins that have kept us from recognizing and enjoying God's presence in and among us. Let us confess too, our apathy in sharing good news with others.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: We love your church, O God, and are glad to be a part of it. But we fail so often to be in mission. When despair and suffering overwhelm us, we cry out because we feel abandoned. We doubt your presence and your promises. We fear you may have turned away from us in anger. We question why you have forsaken us. In these moments, strengthen us in faith and fill our hearts with courage, for not only do we need to know hope and peace, so do all people, everywhere. Too many people in our community and world are not receiving the ministry of your church - the sharing of good news - because of our reluctance. Forgive us for our poor discipleship. Revive us with renewed concern for the lost and lonely in the world, that we may join hands as one church with new fervor to share Christ with our world. In his name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Based on Psalm 103:17)

Pastor: Hear the good news: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
 Congregation: **We trust in God's forgiveness. We have hope. We are at peace.**
 All: **Amen!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

Hymnal, #493

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

HYMN *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* **Hymnal, #329**

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Numbers 27:12-23

EPISTLE READING – 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 4:12-23

SERMON **Rev. Laura C. Baker**

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC *A Lullaby* **Chime Choir**

OFFERING LITANY

Liturgist: The Christian life is marked by the offering of one’s self to God – to be shaped, empowered, directed, and changed by God in worship.

Congregation: We are claimed by Christ and set free!

Liturgist: In response to God’s love in Jesus Christ, we offer God our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our financial resources, for God’s service.

Congregation: In honesty, we acknowledge that everything we have and enjoy, even the breath in our lungs, is a gift from God.

Liturgist: In response to God’s goodness and steadfast love, we are called to respond in gratitude and generosity, ourselves.

Congregation: God has blessed us with so much and in our offering, hymn of praise, and prayer of dedication, we are returning a portion of those blessings to God and providing them with the assurance that God will use them, in the context of this church family, to bring about God’s kingdom here on earth, as it is in heaven.

Liturgist: Let us thank God, offering our gifts, and dedicate them to God’s purposes.

HYMN *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (Verse 1, only) **Hymnal, #258**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Loving God, we have so many reasons to say, “Thank you.” Your generosity, grace and mercy are astounding and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week might be used to glorify your name. Help us to be generous, not only with our money, but also with our time and talent, building relationships with each other – and most especially the children in our midst. Strengthen us to recognize your blessings, to be grateful, and to respond accordingly. Amen.

HYMN *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* **Hymnal, #280**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Disciples of Jesus, as you leave this sacred space, let no division exist between you.

Congregation: We are knit together by threads of friendship.

Pastor: And let God’s love guide you:

Congregation: Toward unity of purpose,

All: And deeper community with one another. Amen.

POSTLUDE

References

- Call to Worship - I, Heth H. “Call to Worship: Called to Be in Mission. Epiphany 2/Ordinary Time 3-A.” Lectionary Worship Aids.
- Confession - Adapted by Pastor Laura based on two prayers of confession: A) Corl, Heth H. “Confession: Called to Be in Mission. Epiphany 2/Ordinary Time 3-A.” Lectionary Worship Aids and B) Terry McDowell of Presbyterian Outlook, 2023. https://d3htmdvqo5vzzb.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/1_22_23-OutLookLiturgy.pdf
- Offertory Litany - Reiter, John. Adapted by Pastor Laura from “The Lord’s Day: Offering and Prayer of Dedication” for July 19, 2022 from: <https://www.firstpreswh.org/daily-devotional/the-lords-day-offering-and-prayer-of-dedication/>
- Benediction - Newberry, Brent A. “Benediction: 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany, Year A.” Faith Element Worship Resources for Worship Website.

Hymns

- Called as Partners in Christ’s Service - Public Domain. CCLI Song #2160043
- I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord – Public Domain. CCLI #2160043
- Blest Be Thy Tie That Binds – Public Domain. CCLI # 25369