



First Presbyterian Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost • September 8, 2024 • 9:30am Worship



Welcome!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or have grown up here at FPC,
we are glad you are worshipping here this morning!

The Gathering

**indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Elegy

Welcome & Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

*Call to Worship

One: This is the day the Lord has made,

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: It is true that to live in awe and respect of God.

All: is the beginning of true wisdom.

One: God calls us to embody wisdom in who we are.

All: God calls us to infuse our life choices with wisdom.

One: God wants us to make a good name for ourselves by living with integrity and faith.

All: The wisdom of God can lead us into right and joyful living.

One: Let us worship the living God.

*Hymn No. 620

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

*Prayer of Confession – BCW

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Silent prayers of personal confession may be offered.

***Kyrie Eleison**



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, Have mer-cy up-on us.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

***The Welcome and Peace**

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

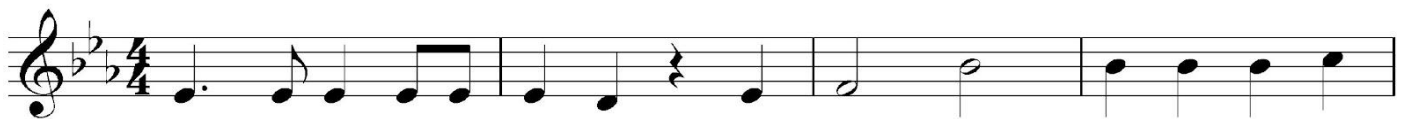
All: And also with you.

The congregation greets one another with words and signs of peace.

***Gloria Patri No. 581**

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the



Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is



now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

The Word

New Testament Lesson James 2:1-10, 14-17 (N.T., pp.228-229)

Steve King

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 125

Rose Hunsberger, *soprano*

(Cantor sings the refrain once then followed by the congregation)



Lord, show your good - ness; show your good - ness to all your peo - ple.

Those who put their trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, unshaken, enduring forever. As the mountains enfold Jerusalem, so the Lord enfolds the faithful, now and evermore. **(R)**

Those whose ways are corrupt shall never rule over the land of the righteous as long as the righteous uphold the truth. Lord, show your goodness to all your people and to those who are true of heart. Shun those whose ways are unjust; give peace to Israel. **(R)**

Old Testament Lesson

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-25 (O.T., p. 604)

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Good Name

Glenn D. Leupold

Our Response

*Hymn No. 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

Prayers of the People

Ellen Eisenbraun

*There is a "Prayers of the People" book on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We encourage the congregation to write their concerns and thanksgivings in the book before the service so they can be included in the Prayers of the People. Several petitions are offered, each concluding with: O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

Ushers will pass the offering plates to each pew. There are also offering receptacles located in the back of the sanctuary. You may place your offering in one on the way into worship or as you leave. You may also donate online at <https://firstpresalbany.org/give/> or scan the QR code to the right.



Offertory

There is a Balm in Gilead
Rose Hunsberger, soprano

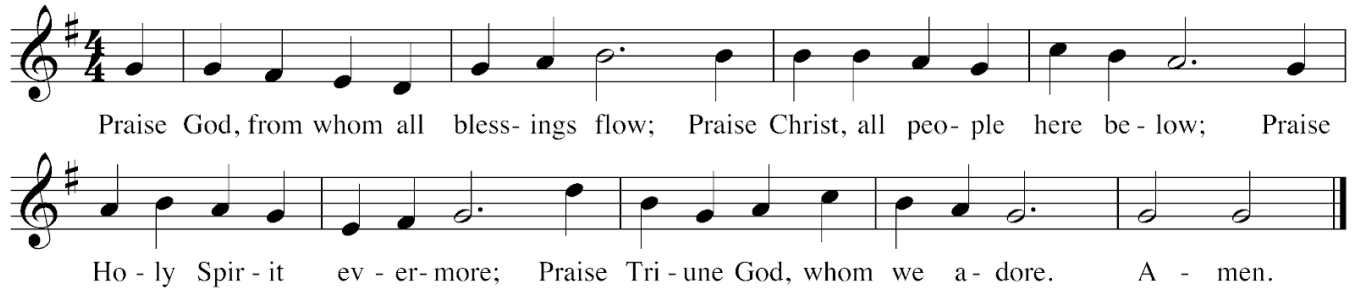
Harry T. Burleigh

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

If you can preach like Peter, if you can pray like Paul,
Go home and tell your neighbors, "He died to save us all."

*Doxology (sung in unison)



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Christ, all peo-ple here be-low; Praise
Ho-ly Spir-it ev-er-more; Praise Tri-une God, whom we a-dore. A-men.

*Prayer of Dedication

The Eucharist (Thanksgiving)

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

All those, including children, who seek the way of Christ and desire fellowship in the church are invited to the Lord's Table to share in our common meal of Thanksgiving.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

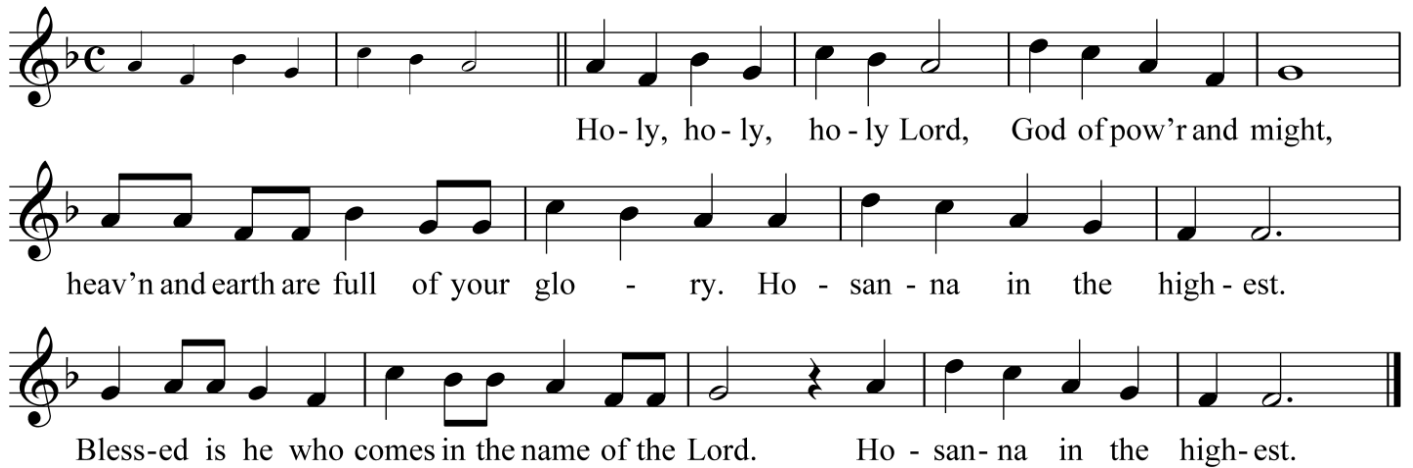
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(prayer continues with sung responses)

One: ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All Sing:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

One: ... in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Sing:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a-gain.

One: ...All glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

All Sing:



A - - men. A - - men.

One: And now with the confidence of the children of God, we are bold to pray:

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

The congregation is served at the front of the sanctuary, coming forward by the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. Communion is by intinction – take a piece of bread from the loaf or a piece of pita from the plate, dip it into the cup of juice, and eat. When served, you may respond by saying “Amen,” “Thanks be to God,” or another response. You may choose a sealed prepackaged communion element from one of the baskets – the ones with “GF” are gluten-free. If you prefer to receive communion in the pew, you may remain in your seat and signal an usher. Servers will bring you the elements.

Communion Music

*Humbly I Adore Thee
Adoro Te Devote, Chant, Mode V
Rose Hunsberger, soprano*

Humbly I adore thee, Verity unseen;
who thy glory hidden ‘neath these shadows mean;
lo to thee surrendered, my whole heart is bowed,
tranced as it beholds thee, shrined within the cloud.

Taste and touch and vision to discern thee fail;
faith, that comes by hearing, pierces through the veil.
I believe whate’er the Son of God hath told;
what the Truth hath spoken, that for truth I hold.

O memorial wondrous of the Lord’s own death;
living Bread that givest all thy creatures breath,
grant my spirit ever by thy life may live,
to my taste thy sweetness never failing give.

Prayer after Communion

God of all things, we thank you for feeding us in this sacrament, and reminding us of where true wisdom is found. It is known in the breaking of the bread, and it is seen in the acts of love this meal inspires. We offer our thanks to you for meeting us here, in this meal. Amen.

The Sending

***Hymn No. 733**

We All Are One in Mission

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS
WALDVÖGELEIN

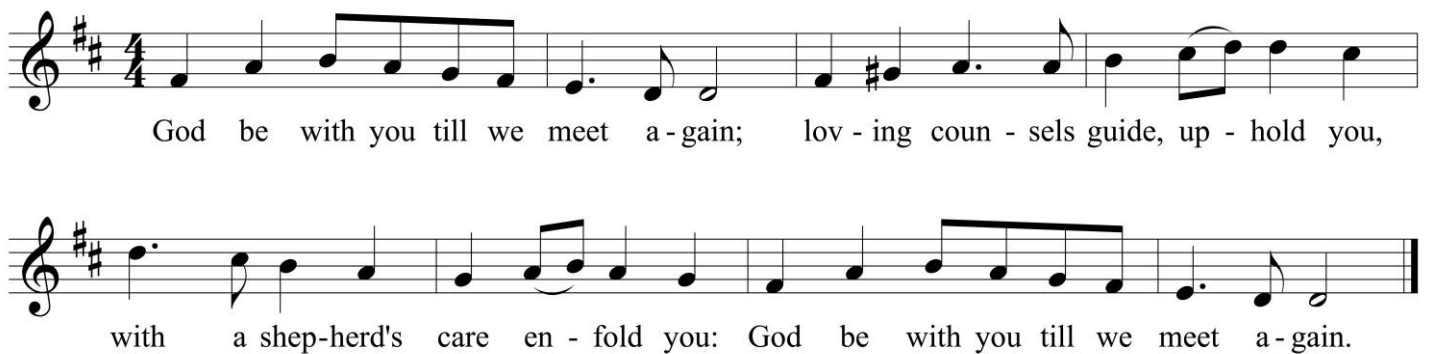
***Charge and Blessing**

***Response by the People (*in unison*) Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.**

***Responsive Hymn 541v1**

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

RANDOLPH



God be with you till we meet a-gain; lov-ing coun-sels guide, up-hold you,
with a shep-herd's care en-fold you: God be with you till we meet a-gain.

Postlude

Allegro in G

C.V. Stanford

*You may be seated if you wish to listen to the postlude.
Please come to Assembly Hall for Fellowship Time.*

*For your convenience and as an aid to your worship experience, large print hymnals and
Bibles are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

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All are Welcome in this Place!

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



First Presbyterian Church

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

We welcome children to our worship services. Nursery care for children ages birth through kindergarten is provided on the second floor of the Christian Education Building. Nursery care is available from 8:45am to 12:15pm and is staffed by experienced childcare providers Morgan Rosekrans and Mary Margaret Cabuhat.

Parking is available on Sunday mornings in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

We continue to livestream our Sunday worship services on Facebook.

Christian Education on Sunday mornings will resume September 15

9:15-10:15 Education Classes in the Education Building

Godly Play in the Preschool Class on 2nd floor (age 3 thru kindergarten)

Godly Play in The Upper Rooms on 3rd floor (Grades 1-5)

Youth Education in the Youth Room on 2nd floor (Grades 6-12)

Adult Education Class in the Rose Room on 1st floor and MS Teams

Announcements

As the **Adult Education Class** begins a new academic year, we will welcome Rob Trawick, the General Presbyter of Albany Presbytery, who will share his experience in Israel this past spring with the class on **September 22** at 9:15. You are encouraged to be present to hear his first-hand experience. In preparation for his time with us, the class on **September 15** Glenn Leupold will review of the history of Palestine and Israel that has preceded the current conflict.

The First Presbyterian Church awards **educational grants** to church members who seek financial assistance in continuing their education. These funds may be used during the school year for any type of studies beyond high school. All you need to do is fill out the application and send it to the church. Deadline is Sept 10. For additional information please contact Kelsey Mayo at <mailto:kelsey.mayo@gmail.com>.

Next Sunday, September 15, we begin our program year schedule with education classes for all beginning at 9:15am and Worship at 10:30am followed by Fellowship Time. Next Sunday plan to stay for the Fellowship Lunch! (see flyer later in bulletin for details)

Each month the **FOCUS Food Pantry** requests items from its member churches. FPC's September donation is toothpaste. All items must be new and unopened. The **FOCUS Food Pantry** is also requesting one-pound bags of rice, as they are unable to get these from suppliers. Please leave donations in the box in Assembly Hall. Questions? Call Susan Sneeringer at 518-496-4793.

The paraments (the cloth on the pulpit, lectern, and communion table) and the pastors' stoles (the cloth around their necks) are green, the liturgical color for **Ordinary Time** (Monday after Pentecost through Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent). Green is a sign of life in nature and as such represents growth, life and hope.

The **Festival Celebration Choir**, an ecumenical choral group of mixed voices, is seeking new members. Rehearsals begin Monday, Sept 9, 7:00 – 9:00pm at the First Pres and continue through Sunday, December 15, when the choir will present a concert, *A Season for Song*, jointly with Capital Community Voices, both directed by Julie Panke. For further info: Cenzi Brynolfson at cenzi@nycap.rr.com; for registration: Kaila Harrienger at <mailto:kailaharrienger@gmail.com>

September 2024 Fall Music Happenings

This fall is a great time to get involved in the music and art at First Presbyterian Church!

Beginning **Sunday, September 15, the Chancel Choir** will return to the worship service. Thursday night rehearsals begin at 7 pm, and all are welcome to join our choral community. If you are interested or would like to sit in on a rehearsal, feel free to stop by. **Chancel Bell Choir** will also resume rehearsals on Sundays after church services – please contact director Trevor Kahlbaugh (<mailto:trevoradam@gmail.com>) for details on this exciting ministry.

If you are a **singer or instrumentalist** who would like to share your musical gift with the congregation on a more occasional basis, we have been expanding these opportunities as well. We have opportunities for instrumentalists to play as a solo or small ensemble throughout the year, so if you play an instrument and would like to contribute special music in one of our services, we would love to have you share your talent this season as well.

One particular opportunity for you to participate in is our **December 6 First Friday Concert**, where we will perform the marvelous *Magnificat* by J.S. Bach. As we have done with these types of concert, we invite members of our community who would like to sing on this concert to join us by attending three Sunday rehearsals that take place immediately after Sunday service; these rehearsals are on September 22, October 20, and November 24. There will be a rehearsal on December 5 at 7 pm, where we will rehearse the music with our chamber ensemble (email me for information regarding our chamber instrumental ensembles).

For inquiries about any of these opportunities, please see me after service or contact me at <mailto:mlister@firstpresalbany.org>. We would love to have you join us as part of the church music ministry!

Michael Lister
Director of Music



FIRST PRES FAMILIES



ARE INVITED TO A BACK TO SCHOOL BASH



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
4:30 - 6:30 PM, ASSEMBLY HALL**

PIZZA AND DRINKS PROVIDED FOR ALL
(INCLUDING VEG AND GLUTEN-FREE FRIENDS)

BRING A SIDE, SNACK, OR DESSERT TO SHARE
CHECK IN WITH FRIENDS, PLAY SOME GAMES, AND
SHARE SOME TIME TOGETHER.

ALL KIDS, THEIR GROWN-UPS, AND GROWN-UPS WHO
WILL BE GUIDING YOUTH ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.



Please RSVP by September 10th to Miriam at the church office at
info@firstpresalbany.org so that we have enough for everyone!



SUNDAY, 9/15

11:45 AM

Fellowship Lunch

**Gather in Assembly Hall after
worship on Sunday, September 15,
for tasty food, good conversation
and great fellowship!**

**All are welcome!
Food and drink
provided.
Gluten Free and
Vegetarian options
provided.**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ALBANY, NY**

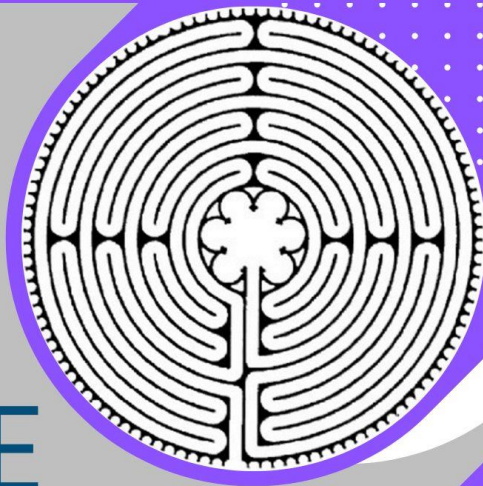
Inquirer Classes

Interested in learning about
becoming a member?
Attend a class to find out more on
September 29, October 6 or 13
9:15-10:15am
in the church Library.

Questions: contact Pastor Miriam at 518.449.7332
or mleupold@firstpresalbany.org

Thursday, September 19

Come
and
walk



Monthly
every
3rd Thursday

11am-2pm
& 5-7pm

THE
LABYRINTH
at First Presbyterian
Church

Serving you on Sunday, September 8

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Jeff Durgee, Ellen Kemp, Rachel Smith, Roseline Takor

Online Worship Assistant: Mary Rogers

Scripture Reader: Steve King

Prayer Reader: Ellen Eisenbraun

Communion Servers: Roseline Takor & David Takor

Offering Counters: Leslie Cheu & Laura Schultz

Audio Visual Specialist: Dwight Cheu

Serving you on Sunday, September 15

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: FPC Youth, Molly Dowell, Lillie McLaughlin

Online Worship Assistant: Alison Stonbely

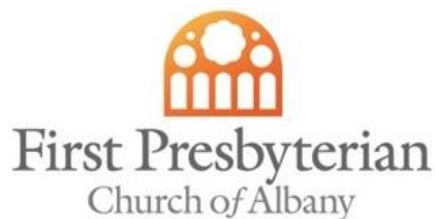
Scripture Reader: FPC Youth

Prayer Reader: Molly Dowell

Communion Servers: Betsy Hadden & Kathie Keck

Offering Counters: Amy Robinson & Ron Geuther

Audio Visual Specialist: Bruce Brynolfson



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firstpresalbany.org

*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell, Youth Director • Fred Boehrer, FOCUS Executive Director*



Check out our socials!

ADORATION

620 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

(Psalm 103)

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his
 3 Fa - ther - like, he tends and spares us; well our
 4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be -

feet your trib - ute bring; ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for -
 peo - ple in dis - tress; praise him still the same as
 fee - ble frame he knows; in his hands he gent - ly
 hold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be -

giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia!
 bears us, res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia!
 fore him, dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

This free paraphrase of Psalm 103 gains much energy and conviction by including the double "Alleluia!" before the final line of text. That repeated four-note figure descending from the tune's highest note gives voice to the praise that the rest of the hymn evokes.

FORGIVENESS

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures
 of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal
 which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more
 sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -
 where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

733 We All Are One in Mission

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

A Lutheran pastor wrote this text in response to a bishop's letter that said, "Our mission is to touch the lives of others with Christ's love." This theme is made stronger by recognizing that shared purposes do not require the denial of diversity but are enriched by it.