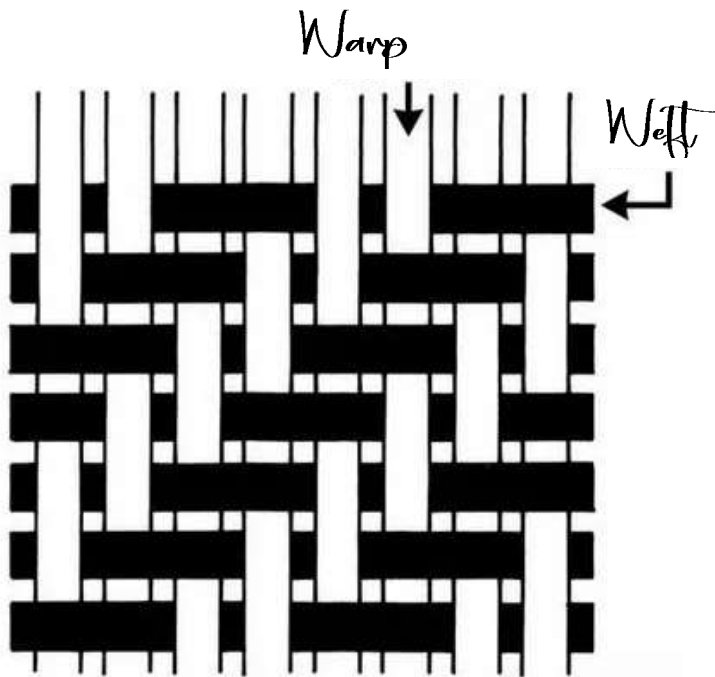


## Woven Together

O Spinner, Weaver, your loom is love.  
May we who are gathered here be empowered by that love  
to weave new patterns of Truth and Justice  
into a fabric that is warm and strong,  
beautiful and everlasting.



## Celebrating Our Baptismal Community

St. John's Church  
Powell, WY  
October 8, 2023

# Welcome

We are so happy you are with us. All you need to worship with us is in this bulletin. Please greet the person near you, stand and sit as you are comfortable, and bring your voice and heart to the service.

In the next three weeks, we continue to celebrate our Baptismal life, as a people woven together. At St. John's, **your baptism means full inclusion** into the Christian community - the tent flap is wide open, the welcome rug is laid out, and the tablecloth is spread.

**Weaving** is a method of textile production in which two distinct sets of yarns or threads are interlaced at right angles to form a fabric or cloth. The longitudinal threads are called the **warp** and the lateral threads are the **weft, woof, or filling**. Cloth is usually woven on a loom, a device that holds the warp threads taught and in place while weft threads are woven through them.

The art of weaving is a profound metaphor for understanding the workings of the universe and our place in it. It is the essential art of creating the unified one out of opposites for the benefit of something larger.

Dario Valcarenghi, in *Kilim History and Symbols*, sums it up in these words: "To produce the textile it is necessary for these two threads to be bound, otherwise each will remain a fragile and fluttering potentiality...if the meeting of opposites does not take place, nothing is created, for each element is defined by its opposite and takes its meaning from it."

Weaving is ubiquitous in our lives. Clothes, sheets, towels, furniture coverings, flags and rugs are all woven products. Weaving permeates our language. How many times have you used the phrase "woven together" or "weaves through" to imply an integration of elements? How about that familiar warning from Walter Scott - "Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive."

We are bound to our bodies with fragile threads. Our skeleton is a loom on which every system is strung and woven with our blood. The meeting of opposite elements woven into a whole is the quest of every spiritual seeker.

It is a beautiful metaphor about how we embody Baptismal life.

As beloved, gifted people, we wrap ourselves like fibers in and out of the demands and responsibilities of our Baptisms to create a community that is warm and durable, beautiful and holy.

## Ministers

|                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Altar Guild         | Charlotte Patrick |
| Sound               | Scott Larsen      |
| Hospitality Greeter | Laura Greathouse  |
| Liturgy Greeter     | Cynthia Garhart   |
| Worship Leader      | Mary Dillivan     |
| Reader              | Mark Smith        |
| Preacher            | Rob Koelling      |
| Intercessor         | Jessica Smith     |
| Presider            | Jayson Nicholson  |
| Communion Server    | Laura Greathouse  |
| Communion Server    | Charlotte Patrick |
| Communion Bread     | Barb Morales      |
| Coffee Hour         | Cheri Mateo       |

## Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East  
Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Carolyn & Family; Laurel & Rusty;<br>Hugh B. & Marge; Richmond & Rich;<br>Lee & Kelly; Hunter, Charlotte & Mike;<br>Shirley & Deb; Richard & Jennifer;<br>Tim & Lynnae; Robin & Mark;<br>Margie & Josey; Bobbi & Bentley;<br>Bob & Charlotte; Brandon & Diedre;<br>Carra, Deb, Rob R., Kathy E., Martha,<br>Tammy, Rob K., Bobby B., Larry, Alex,<br>Irene, Nancy, Alan, Katy, Marlynn, Sue,<br>Kahli, Ron and Jane | Justin, Jacob, Patrick, Reece,<br>Coleman, Bryce and Nathan who are<br>serving in the military.<br><br>Ann, Josephine and Don who reside<br>in care centers. |
|---|--|

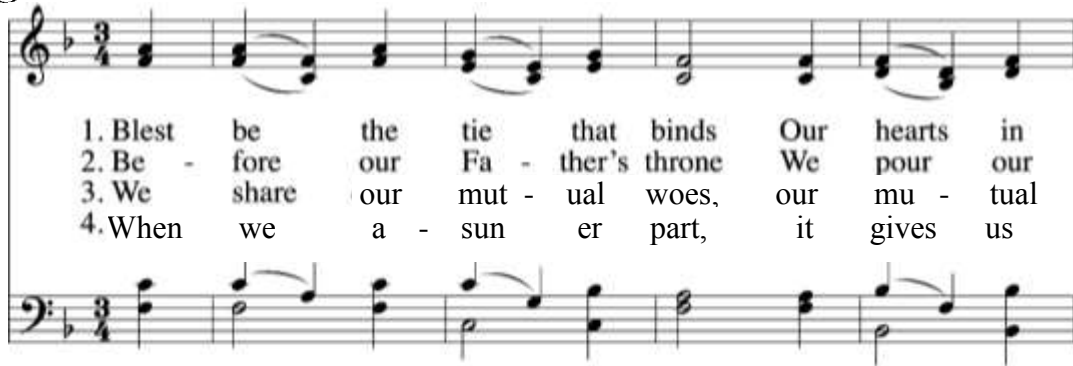
## Celebrations

Birthday: Renee Robinson—8<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary: Tim & Wendy Glatzer—10<sup>th</sup>


# Prelude

“Loom,” Ólafur Arnalds & Reykjavik Recording Orchestra.

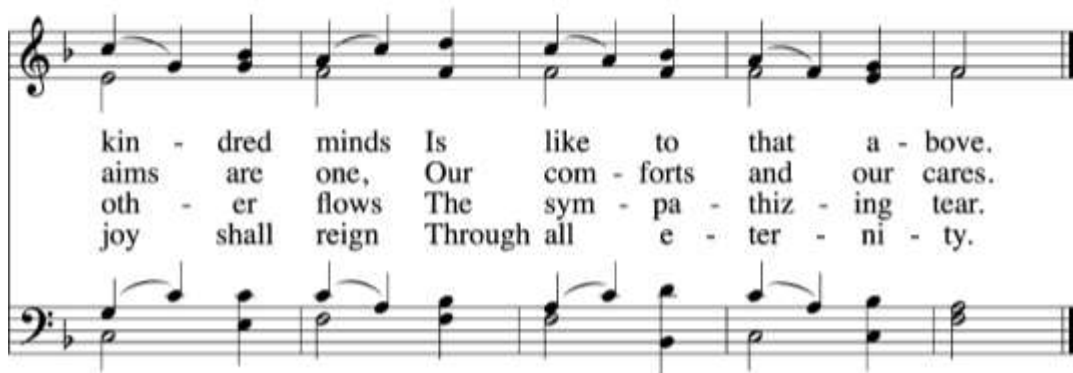
# Hymn



1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in  
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our  
3. We share our mut - ual woes, our mu - tual  
4. When we a - sun er part, it gives us



Chris - tian love; The fel - low - ship of  
ar - dent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our  
bur - dens bear; And of - ten for each  
shall be free; And per - fect love and



kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.  
aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.  
oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
joy shall reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817  
Tune: DENNIS, SM; John G. Nügeli, 1773–1836; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

# Gathering

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

There is one Body and one Spirit;  
**There is one hope in God's call to us.**  
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
**One God and Creator of all.**

Let us pray.

All praise and thanks to you, weaver of all creation,  
for adopting us as your own children,  
for entwining us into your holy Church,  
and for binding us together in unity and love. Amen.

*Hymn* We repeat the chorus after the last verse



Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er. Weave us to - geth - er in un - i - ty and



lo - ve. Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er. Weave us to - geth - er, to -



geth - er in love.

1. We are man - y te - xt - tures. We are man - y

2. We are different in - stru - ments, play - ing our own

3. Mo - ments a - go we did not



co - lors. Each one dif - rent from the o - ther. \_\_\_ But we are ent -

melodies, Each one tuned to a different key. \_\_\_ But we are all

know our unity only diver - si - ty. \_\_\_ Now the Christ in me



wined with one an - othe - er, in one great tap - es - try.

play - ing in har - mo - ny, in one great sym - pho - ny.

greet the Christ in you in one great fam - i - ly.

## Scripture

*We sit.*

Glorious God, when Jesus was baptized for your healing mission the heavens opened in a flash of glory, as a vision and voice blazed upon the waters. May your spirit so burn in us that we hear your word translated into deed and follow Jesus in patterns of justice, right relationship, and peace.

A reading from \_\_\_\_\_.

*After the Reading*

Word of God, Word of covenant.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

## Prayers

Holy God, at Jesus baptism in the Jordan, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation.

By water and word you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. We pray to you, God of covenant, saying, bind us together, O God, **and bless us with peace.**

*The intercessor continues, concluding with*

In the waters of Baptism, God's Holy Spirit comes to us and binds us to the body of Christ. Let us pray thanksgiving for this miracle that makes wider and deeper the companionship we have with each other, through Jesus, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Confession

*We stand.*

As unraveled threads, fragile and fluttering,  
let us confess our sins.

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.

We have denied your goodness in each other, in  
ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil  
we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our  
Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your  
love and serve only your will. Amen.

## Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through  
the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by  
the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

## Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

*We greet each other in the name of the Lord.*

## Announcements

## Offering

As people who have passed through the waters of baptism,  
let us make our grateful offering to God.

## Music

“Hear, O Israel,” Dallas Christian Adult Concert Choir.

# Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of hope, in your Holy Spirit you hovered over the face of the waters in creation, and in your pillar of fire you led your people to liberation across the Red Sea.

Through the waters you brought your people into the life and land of promise.

In your son's baptism at the Jordan we see your creative and liberating purpose at work amid our human flaws, and we hear anew with hope the promise of your voice.

In our own baptism you number us among your people, bound together for redemption and glory. Through baptism you bury us in death with Christ, yet raise us to new life with him forever.

And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

We remember when Jesus was sitting at supper with his disciples, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,

“Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup, gave you thanks and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

This is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Blessing God, who sent down your Holy Spirit like a dove upon your beloved, send your spirit among us now to sanctify us by your grace. By the power of that same spirit, make these gifts of bread and wine before us the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ.

Master weaver, you have opened the tent of heaven and come among us. Bless all who long to be called beloved, by sibling or parent or spouse or friend or child, and any who are searching for the love that only you can bring, until all stand in your presence and sing your name, wrapped in the white garments of joy and enfolded by your embrace.

**AMEN.**



## Lord's Prayer

We pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## Breaking Bread

*The leader breaks the bread. Silence is kept.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We are all one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

God's gifts for God's people.

## Communion

*Please come to the table, whether you are single, married or divorced, drinking, using or sober, abled, disabled, or ill, gay, straight, or discovering, wealthy, getting by or in debt. Christ meets us all.*

*Approach the rail from the left aisle and take a cup; used cups go on the tray on the right.*

*You may receive only bread or only wine. Our Eucharistic bread is handmade and robust.*

*If you prefer a wafer, please tell your server.*

## Music

“Common Threads,” Bobby McFerrin, from “Stories from the Quilt,” a 1989 American documentary film that tells the story of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

“Threads,” Star Age.

# Gratitude

*We stand.*

Let us pray.

God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life  
and cup of salvation,  
you have united us with Christ and one another,  
and you have made us one with all your people  
in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim  
your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever  
in the risen life of Christ our Savior.  
Amen.

# Hymn

1. Guide my feet  
 2. Hold my hand while I run this race,  
 3. Stand by me  
 4. I'm Your child

Oh, Lord,

Guide my feet  
 Hold my hand while I run this race,  
 Stand by me  
 I'm Your child

Oh, Lord,

Guide my feet  
 Hold my hand while I run this race, For I  
 Stand by me  
 I'm Your child

don't want to run this race in vain, race in vain.  
 vain.

Text: Negro Spiritual  
 Tune: GUIDE MY FEET, 888 10, Negro Spiritual; harm. by Wendell P. Whalum, 1931-1987, © Estate of Wendell Whalum

## Sending

At the weaving of creation, all our lives were intertwined:  
every tiny thread an offering to joyous variation.

Go now, bound to one another, bound to God.

**We go in the name of Jesus.**

**Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## Postlude

“Unraveled,” Rising Appalachia.