

Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ



**Sunday Morning
2018 Annual Meeting
Worship Bulletin**

Matthew 5:23-24 So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister^[a] has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister,^[b] and then come and offer your gift. (NRSV)

We gather and consider how reconciliation might be made manifest in our lives.

We Gather in God's Name

Gathering Music

Welcome (based on Genesis 45)

One: Come closer.

Two: Come Closer. I am your brother

One: I am your sister – I – and you – are here, and we are still alive.

Two: Some of us have experienced famine, while others have experienced plenty. All of us have lost parts of our lives that are meaningful.

One: Many of us have seen relationships fractured and loving relationships interrupted. We have wept, and we have laughed; and now, we have come to a time and place to set aside what has divided us and create something fresh and exciting.

Two: As Joseph and his brothers were reconciled, so we can be too. Please greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

Please stand as you are able for the Passing of the Peace of Christ

Opening Hymn “This is a Day of New Beginnings”
(Permission by One License #708988)

Please be seated

A Time of Confession

One: We cannot be reconciled with one another without first admitting our sins. Let us begin by seeking forgiveness from God.

(Silent Prayer)

Holy God,

All: We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. You have given us guidance and the commandment to love one another as You have loved us, yet we seem to have missed that part a lot. Forgive us if we have focused on ourselves alone. Forgive us if we have damaged Your creation. Forgive us if we have lost You in the midst of all the noise we create.

One: Let us now admit the ways we have sinned against each other.

(Silent Prayer)

Holy God,

All: It is an easy thing to hurt others, often without even knowing we have done it. If I have offended a child of Your redeeming, forgive me. If I have purposely injured another, whether it was today or long ago, forgive me and help me make it right. I offer my shame for my wrong behavior, with the hope that I will always keep others in mind.

One: Let us now join in silence, seeking wisdom and renewal from God.

(Silent Prayer)

One: Hear the Good News! We have come before God and with one another to offer our confession. God hears us, and I announce to you that in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God. Amen!

We Hear God's Word

From the Epistle, 2 Corinthians 5: 11-21

Please Stand as you are able

One: This is the Gospel of God.

All: We wait to hear what God has to say to us today.

From the Gospel, Matthew 5: 21-24

One: The words of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to You, God almighty, for You are still speaking.

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister

Penn NE Conference of the United Church of Christ

Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of Preparation

"I Come With Joy"

We Celebrate the Eucharist Together

One: The Apostle Paul wrote that God became reconciled to humanity through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. We are the fruits of that promise.

All: We are all connected as the body of Christ. We are all included and loved and welcomed as creations in Your image. We life our hearts, minds, and spirits in joy!

One: We remember that Jesus, as He was gathered in the upper room with His closest friends, took the bread. He broke it, showed it to those who were with Him to help them understand how much He loved them, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, broken for you. Take this in remembrance of me." Then He took the cup, and giving thanks, He shared it with them, saying, "This is my blood, shed for you. Drink this, in remembrance of me."

All: We receive this sacred gift and are reminded of God's love and sacrificial generosity given to each of us. Christ died alone, God raised Him from the dead in defiance, Christ will return to be with us some day.

One: Send the power of the Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts, that in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the cup, we might experience the living Christ in each one of us.

All: Amen, Amen, Amen!

Pleased be seated

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

We come together to receive God's Holy Communion – Holy Communion will be celebrated by intinction. There are four stations – the station as you face the back on the right is gluten free. If you need communion brought to you, please ask a neighbor to tell the servers at one of the stations.

Music during Communion

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of Sending "Camina, Pueblo de Dios"
(Permission by One License #708988)

Benediction & Blessing

One: While we all share grief, loss, and regret,

All: We also share the love of Christ, who reconciles each of us to each other.

One: We cannot offer peace and reconciliation to the world if we are not at peace and reconciled with each other.

All: Grant us Your peace, holy and merciful God, as we are sent out to our communities to not just exist, but to live Your calling.

One: Go in Christ's peace, so that your part of this Conference may be a place of reconciliation and new life.

All: We take the resurrected, reconciling, re-creating God with us. Amen!

Sending Music

Musicians: Rev. Marian Shearer, The Rev. Dr. Robert Stewart, Rev. Josh Blakesley, The Rev. Dr. Stephen Ohnsman, PhD, Rev. Karl Jones

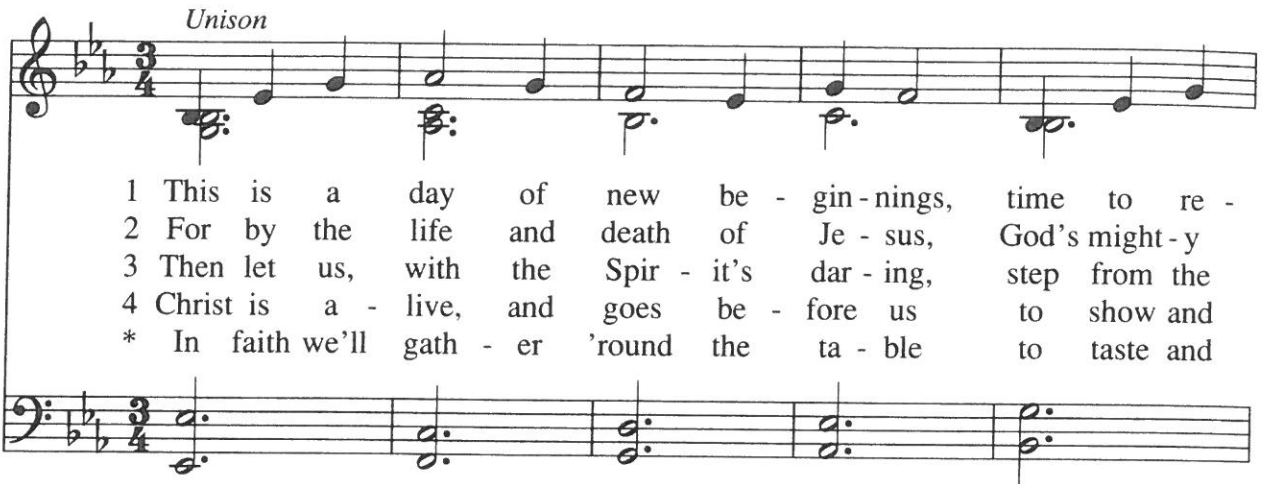
Liturgists: Rev. William Worley, Mr. Vinod Gnanaraj, Rev. Debbie Derby, Rev. Cydney Van Dyke, Rev. Karl Jones

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

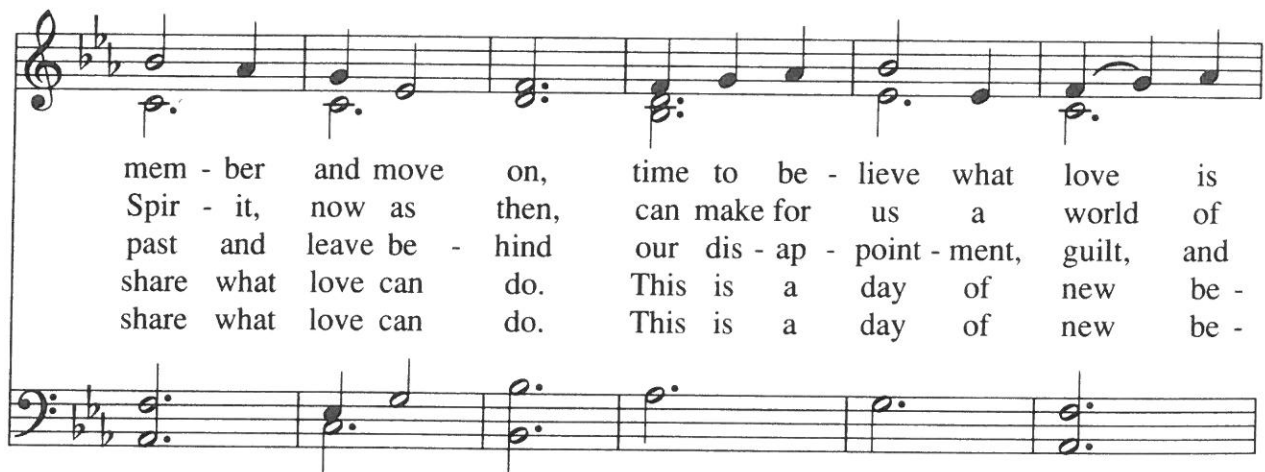
2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

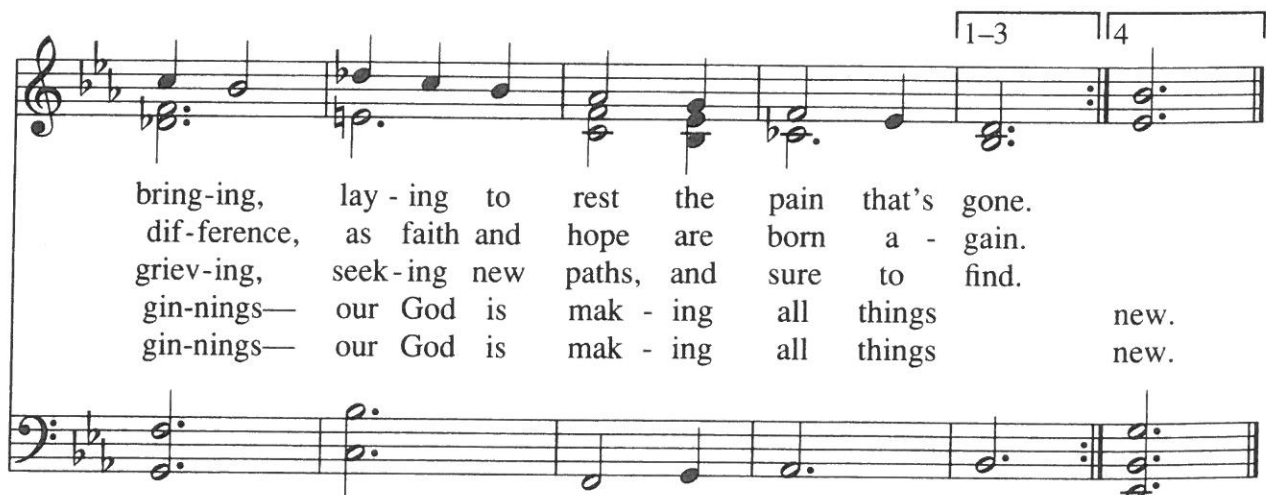
Unison



1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
* In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and



mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -



bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

Camina, Pueblo de Dios

(Go Forth, O People of God)

Rom. 7:5-8:4; 2 Cor. 5:14-19; Rev. 21:1-7

Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1979

Transl. George Lockwood, 1987; alt.

Unison

Estribillo (Refrain)

Ca - mi - na, pue-blo de Dios, ca - mi - na, pue-blo de Dios.
Go forth, O peo-ple of God; go forth, O peo-ple of God!

Nue-va ley, nue-va a - lian - za en la nue-va cre-a - ción.
A new law, and a new prom-ise, all cre - a - tion is re - born.

Ca - mi - na, pue-blo de Dios, ca - mi - na, pue-blo de Dios.
Go forth, O peo-ple of God; go forth, O peo-ple of God!

1 Mi - ra a-llá en el Cal - va - rio en la ro - ca hay u - na cruz;
2 Cris - to to-ma en su cuer-po el pe - ca - do, la es - cla - vi - tud.
1 Look on Cal - va - ry's sum-mit; on the rock there tow - ers a cross;
2 Christ's own bod - y is bur - dened by our sin, en - slave-ment, and pain.

muer - te que en - gen - dra la vi - da, nue - vos se - res, nue - va luz.
 Al des - tru - ir - los, nos tra - e u - na nue - va ple - ni - tud.
 death that gives birth to new liv - ing, a new peo - ple, a new light.
 Crush - ing all e - vil, Christ brings us life's a - bun - dance, life's new joy.

Cris - to nos ha sal - va - do con su muer - te y re - su - rrec - ción.
 Po - ne en paz a los pue - blos, a las co - sas y al Cre - a - dor.
 Christ has brought us sal - va - tion, dy - ing there and ris - ing a - gain.
 Christ brings rec - on - cil - ia - tion to all things and peo - ple with God.

to Refrain
(Estribillo)

To - das las co - sas re - na - cen en la nue - va cre - a - ción.
 To - do re - na - ce a la vi - da en la nue - va cre - a - ción.
 Ev - ery - thing comes to new birth - ing, all cre - a - tion is re - born.
 Na - ture bursts in - to new flow - ering, all cre - a - tion is re - born.

3 Cie - lo y tie - rra se a - bra - zan,
 nues - tra al - ma ha - lla el per - dón.
 Vuel - ven a a - brir - se los cie - los
 pa - ra el mun - do pe - ca - dor.
 Is - ra - el pe - re - gri - no,
 vi - ve y can - ta tu re - den - ción.
 Hay nue - vos mun - dos a - bier - tos
 en la nue - va cre - a - ción.
Estribillo

3 Heav - en and earth are em - brac - ing,
 and our souls find par - don at last.
 Now heav - en's gates are re - o - pened
 to the sin - ner, to us all.
 This is Is - ra - el's jour - ney;
 now we live, sal - va - tion's our song;
 Christ's re - sur - rec - tion has freed us.
 There are new worlds to ex - plore.
Refrain