

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 ~ 9:30 AM

Prelude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

S. R. Love

Invitation To Worship

***Opening Hymn**

I Love to Tell the Story

#625

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.
I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story;
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word.
I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,

I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long.
I love to tell the story;
I'll sing this theme in glory
and tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

Sharing a Sign of Peace (Right Hand of Fellowship)

Announcements

Children's Message

Joyful Noise

Liturgy

Reconciliation

pgs. 13-17

(Standing)

LANCASHIRE (151 M)

*With joyfulness and longing
we look to you, O Lord;
receive us in your mercy,
and cheer us with your word.
Crown us with love enduring
and promises of grace,
and let your holy blessing
remain within this place.*

*The years have all been crowded
with tokens of your love;
and many who have sought you
now worship you above.
But we, O Lord, still need you
our pilgrim feet to stay,
for evil often triumphs
as faith to fear gives way.*

Almighty God, enthroned above all, you alone are God over the nations of the earth. Even the planets, the stars, and the galaxies are placed by your hand.

Where could we go from your Spirit? Where could we flee from your presence? If we go up to the heavens, you are there; if we go down into the caves of the earth or the depths of the sea, you are there.

God of all creation, we sing praises to your name; we stand jubilant before your glory, power, and beauty.

God of certainty, God of truth, our confidence is in you and in you alone.

Yet we live in a fallen world and we are an imperfect people.

Our world is filled with pain and alienation.

We know of illness when body or mind is failing, and the loneliness of spirit it brings.

We know of separation from parent or child, from friend or neighbor, and the emptiness of life it brings.

We know of strangeness in new communities and in changing communities, and the longing it brings.

We know of alienation caused by unemployment or poverty or discrimination, and the pain it brings.

We have become strangers to our relatives, and foreigners to our own families.

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? Let our cry for help come to you.

I am a God nearby, says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? I am the Lord your God. I have called you out from the peoples and you shall be holy to me.

We declare your praise, the One who called us out of darkness into your wonderful light. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to you.

MIT FREUDEN ZART

*Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul he fills,
and every faithless murmur stills.
To God all praise and glory!*

*The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,*

*an ever-present help and stay,
our peace, and joy, and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand,
he leads his own, his chosen band.
To God all praise and glory!*

(Kneeling or sitting)

Gracious God, we humbly confess that we walk in the way of the indifferent, who depend on their strength alone. We sit among the scornful, who deny the need for your guidance and power. Our hearts are not satisfied with riches vulnerable to moth and rust and thief, yet we zealously store up those very treasures. Set our minds on things unseen and eternal, that our emptiness within may be filled.

We humbly confess that we fail to welcome the stranger among us. We pass by the neighbor who is hungry and thirsty, naked, sick, and in prison. We sing of your healing power and your unconditional love, but we fail to make our sanctuaries true havens for the suffering and the exiled. Give us the will to be ambassadors for our Savior and faithful stewards of the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Amen.

Without Christ we were strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus we who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. He is our peace.

We are no longer strangers and aliens, but citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, with Christ himself as the cornerstone.

Therefore, let us affirm our faith in the Triune God.

(Standing)

We believe in the one God who has created the land and sea and heavens and all that is in them; who established a world that was good; who gives to us the task of watchful and responsible care over it; who is certainty and truth.

We believe in the one God who in Jesus Christ assumed our humanity and knew our life as child, youth, and adult; who dined with sinners and lived with the homeless; who confronted popular opinion and power; who remained obedient in temptation and suffering; whose triumph was a servant's death and resurrection.

We believe in the one God who comes to us as comforter and advocate; who does not leave us as orphans; who brings peace and calms the troubled heart; who bestows

gifts for serving, healing, showing compassion, and doing miracles; who alone is the power and the wisdom of our proclamation.

Let us in faith keep our eyes fixed on the promises of God, though we see them and greet them from a distance.

We confess that we are strangers and foreigners on the earth, a people who are seeking our true home.

We desire a better place, that is, a heavenly one. Indeed, God has prepared a city for us.

Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

EASTHAM

*O then what raptured greetings
on Canaan's happy shore;
what knitting severed friendships up,
where partings are no more!
Then eyes with joy shall sparkle
that brimmed with tears of late,
orphans no longer fatherless,
nor widows desolate.*

*Bring near your great salvation,
O Lamb for sinners slain;
fill up the roll of your elect,
then take your power, and reign!
Appear, Desire of nations,
your exiles long for home;
show in the heaven your promised sign;
great Prince and Savior, come.*

Sharing Cares of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Blessed Assurance*

J. Carter

***Hymn of Dedication** *Dear Lord, from Whom We All Derive*

#831

Dear Lord, from whom we all derive
our life, our gifts, our pow'r to give:
now may we ever with you live. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

***Hymn**

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

#758

"Take up your cross," the Savior said,
"if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross, let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
and let your foolish heart be still;
the Lord for you accepted death
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in his strength,
and calmly ev'ry danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life
and leads to victory o'er the grave.

Take up your cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Scriptures

Matthew 18:15-20

pg. 19

Message

Rev. Ian Edwards

***Closing Hymn**

Blessed Be The Tie That Binds

#680

Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;

the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

***Benediction**

Postlude

O God, Beyond All Praising L. Shackley

Our Regular Worship Services Resume
September 13, 2026
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
10:30 AM Livestream

2026 Watchword Text for the Schoeneck Congregation

*“For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known
to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.” 2 Peter 1:16*

** Please stand if you are able.*