



**Worship Leaders Guide
September 15, 2024
Week 2**

“The Polarization Within: *Compassion*”

COMING TOGETHER

Pre Worship Video

Welcome

Welcome to our KVOE listeners and to those watching online.
My name is Ed Bashaw and this morning I am your worship reader.
Welcome to Emporia First United Methodist Church. We are all beloved children of God. Together, we are a Christian community committed to accepting, valuing, and loving all. We seek to live, grow, and serve as Jesus taught us: loving one another, transforming lives, and making disciples.
Let us now worship.

Prelude with Acolytes Entering & Lighting the Candles
Acolytes: Madison Conley & Sadie Chanley

***Re-Orientation**

Pastor Ross: Today we continue our worship series that invites us to consider the qualities that will help us navigate the division we are experiencing in our world. This week, we consider compassion. Why do we need this quality more than ever now? Because we are complex beings living in a complex world. We sometimes deal with conflict within us in addition to the conflict between us. Research tells us that because we humans are desperate for a sense of cohesion and belonging in these confusing times, we are hanging onto ideological generalities instead of treating ourselves and

each other with the compassion required to alleviate despair. Compassion grows when we are able to know ourselves and one another on a deeper level and act out of understanding.

["Christ Has Broken Down the Wall" W&S 3122 \(vs. 1\)](#)

**Christ has broken down the wall.
Christ has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one,
Christ has broken down the wall.**

Pastor Ross

The act of simply coming together is "revolutionary," which in its earliest form meant "finding a course around a central point." We gather around the Light of Christ as the center and guiding light of our lives. This becomes our point of reference for our relationships and our love in the world. This is our "kindness revolution." Let us pray:

Reconciling God,
we ask you to help us open to compassion,
for we are a divided world,
and the conflict is waging even within us in this moment.
Empower us, and invite us
to "do unto ourselves and others" in way that build up
your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Center that Holds,
and in the power of the Spirit that Transforms. **Amen.**

**We're accepted as we are.
We're accepted as we are.
Through God's power, all is reconciled;
we're accepted as we are.**

**Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Peace and love freely offered here;
cast aside your doubts and fears.**

Peace Across the Divide

Youth Reader: Sometimes I can't make out my own thoughts, much less yours.

Worship Reader: Making sense out of this life and this time seems unreachable.

Youth Reader: What if we never figure it out?

Worship Reader: What if we become too estranged?

Youth Reader: I cannot imagine your viewpoint.

Worship Reader: I'm not sure I am willing to believe that any solution will work.

Pastor: Wait.

People: Breathe.

Pastor: Let the anxiety take a break for just a moment.

People: Breathe again.

Pastor: We are not alone.
People: Christ is with us.

Pastor: Let us take a deep breath together...
The rhythm of our breath and heartbeat is the same.
Our desire for life and love is the same.
Our desire for a peace in which we flourish is the same.
Let this moment permeate our souls,
and let us pass the peace of Christ between us.
This peace is meant for all people.

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

The Peace

Opening Hymn/Song

"Waves of Mercy" (with video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCVlhLf_wM

PROCLAIMING REALLY GOOD NEWS

Children's Time- Cindy Kienholz

Dedication of Acolytes- Pastor Ross

Cindy to the Congregation: These young people who stand before us are new acolytes who have been through training and are prepared to serve you by making our services more orderly, meaningful, and worshipful by bearing the light as a visible reminder of God's presence among us.

Pastor to the Acolytes: This is sacred work, and on behalf of the church we ask you, Will you serve faithfully as servants of God in the life of this church?

Acolytes: With God's help we will.

***Congregation prays together:* O God, who has inspired your people to worship you, grant these acolytes faithfulness and joy in their task, that Christ may be seen in the service they offer. We pray in Christ's name. Amen**

Scripture- Worship Reader Ed Bashaw

Isaiah 11:6-9, NRSVUE

Worship Reader:

*"The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;*

*and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.*

*Worship Reader: A word of God for our times.
People: **Thanks be to God.***

Musical Offering “**Just a Closer Walk with Thee**” [Ken Wright](#), Piano Solo

Sermon: “The Polarization Within: *Compassion*” [Rev. Amanda Baker](#)

RESPONDING WITH ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

Prayer Song

[“Ubi Caritas” TFWS 2179](#)

Translation: “Where charity and love are found, God is there.”

Pastoral Prayer- [Rev. Ross Baker](#)

Prayer of “the wounded

Jesus was in the business of healing, whether that was physical or spiritual- and often those two things were intertwined. His alternative narrative that all people are worthy of healing and the whole relationship inspires us in our response to be his Body in the world, making these alternative sacred narratives more real in our own lives for the sake of the world. We come to prayer today as those who are in need of compassion. Our most bonding realization in times of trial are that we are all hurting and in need. Ironically, it is in times of feeling hurt that we are most likely to hurt others. This is an untenable situation, and we call on the God of Overcoming to help us address the wounds with balm, not further infecting and inflicting pain. And so we pray together the prayer of the people with a depth of faithful compassion for each other's plight.

We pray for healing,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for belonging,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for the spiritual capacity for compassion,
for ourselves and others.

We pray for the ability to reach out beyond walls,
for ourselves and others.

and together as children of God, we pray as Christ taught us...

Lord's Prayer

Offering Our Gifts - [Rev. Amanda Baker](#)

Doxology

[to the tune [LASST UNS ERFREUEN UMH 94](#)]

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God all creatures here below!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Help us to work together well,
off'ring **compassion** to the world.
Follow Jesus, praise the Spirit,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Announcements

RIPPLING FORTH - Rev. Ross Baker

Leader: Actions create ripples of reactions. We move into the world praying that the result of our worshipful work will create actions of **compassion** that extend far beyond our knowing. Let's just see what can happen when we turn up the volume of kindness and treat others as we would hope to be treated. Let us Do Unto Others with ever-deepening understanding that lasts far beyond this moment in history. Let us continue into the unknown future with hope that we can survive, we can thrive, together—no matter the outcomes of a divided world. Let us sing our closing hymn/song as a way of beginning to ripple forth from here, **creating ties of compassion that bind us together.**

Hymn/Song of Going into the World

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds" UMH 557

Benediction- Rev. Amanda Baker

May the Holy One show you the way
to Do Unto Others with compassion.

May the Christ whose Light is the Center of All-That-Is
ground you in the assurance that no one is outside of love.

May the Spirit show forth through you
in extraordinary acts you never imagined you had the power to achieve.

And may you know the peace that surpasses all understanding,
especially when it is difficult to understand.

And the people said, "**Amen!**"

**We will tear down the walls.
We will tear down every wall.
God has called us one and all;
Christ has broken down the wall,
Christ has broken down the wall.**

Postlude