

Unbound: Longing for Wholeness
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. Worship
“Bound by Dishonest Systems” Genesis 39:1-23

Prelude

Becky Retherford

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,
who hears our longings and gives us new life. **Amen.**

Loving God, who knows each of our stories,

**We confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts,
actions, and inactions.**

We have been bound by jealousy, shame, and hatred.

We have not listened to the cries of our siblings.

**We have participated in dishonest systems
and benefited from violence done on our behalf.**

**Forgive us, we pray. In your mercy free us from all that keeps us bound,
and grant us healing and wholeness.**

Siblings in Christ, do not be afraid.

In the name of + Jesus your sins are forgiven.

May God speak kindly to you, restore your paths,
and look upon you with favor all the days of your life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #157 “Kyrie”

L: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God. **Amen.**

THE GREETING

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

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of equity, **we see integrity go unrecognized and honest voices silenced. Unbind us from systems that allow some carelessness and easy rage while denying others their dignity and freedom. Grant us all the wholeness of choosing our actions and relationships without fear. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

BIBLE READING Genesis 39:1-23

MEDITATION “Bound by Dishonest Systems” Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #922 “When We Are Tested”

- 1 When we are tested and wrestle alone,
 famished for bread when the world offers stone,
 nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
 food that sustains us by night and by day.
- 2 When in the desert we cry for relief,
 pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
 lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
 trusting your presence, our only true rest.
- 3 When we are tempted to barter our souls,
 trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
 teach us to worship and praise only you,
 seeking your will in the work that we do.
- 4 When we have struggled and searched through the night,
 sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
 Savior, surround us with circles of care,
 angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

We give you praise, holy God, for stories that illuminate our lives.

We thank you for the story of Joseph and his family.

When we are consumed by jealousy, meet us in our longing for dignity and love.

God, restore us to wholeness.

When violence shatters our world, meet us in our longing to remember we are

Siblings. **God, restore us to wholeness.**

When dishonest systems silence and punish, meet us in our longing to be heard
and believed. **God, restore us to wholeness.**

When family is bound up in guilt and harsh words, meet us in our longing to be
cared for and seen. **God, restore us to wholeness.**

When guilt makes us fearful and shame makes us retreat, meet us in our longing for honest hearts and genuine love. **God, restore us to wholeness.**

We thank you for the story of Joseph and his family.

We give you praise, holy God, for stories that illuminate our lives.

Through the wisdom of your scriptures teach us to live in wholeness.

When we are bound by forces within and without, free us to live fully in you.

BLESSING

May the God of dreams and faithful promises, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and protect you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #561 "Joyeous Light of Heavenly Glory"

- 1 Joyous light of heav'nly glory,
loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story,
shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,
we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts anew.
- 2 In the stars that grace the darkness,
in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom,
we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder,
love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder,
set us free and make us whole.
- 3 You who made the heaven's splendor,
ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice,
let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation,
gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation,
lead us on to endless day.

DISMISSAL Go in peace, forgiven, whole, and free. **Thanks be to God.**