

Unbound: Longing for Wholeness
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. Worship
“Bound by Family” Genesis 41 and 42

Prelude

Dave Roos

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 who brings us together, **our families are complicated by harsh words, failure to recognize one another, and fear of loss. Free us from blame, self-centeredness, and anxiety. Bring those we love to wholeness in your love where all are seen, cared for, and forgiven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

BIBLE READING Genesis 41 and 42

MEDITATION “Bound by Family” Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #338 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and burdens of the day.

- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.

- 3 I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

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 #543 "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

- 1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."
- 2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."
- 3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

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