

Unbound: Longing for Wholeness
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. Worship
“Bound by Violence” Genesis 37:12-36

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 of harmony and justice, **violence tears our dreams to pieces. We long for an end to mourning, betrayal, and fear. Free us from hatred in our hearts and violence at another's hands. Restore us to the wholeness of siblings who speak plainly and live in peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

BIBLE READING Genesis 37:12-36

MEDITATION "Bound by Violence" Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #605 (*alternate tune*) "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

- 1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.
- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
how trifling others' debts to us;
how great our debt to you!
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled,
our lives will spread your peace.

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 #396 - vs. 1, 2, 4 "Spirit of Gentleness"

**Refrain Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

- 1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." **To Refrain**
- 2 You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. **To Refrain**
- 4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. **To Refrain**

DISMISSAL

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