

January 18, 2026

John 1:29-42

All That We Are

When the Spirit descended from heaven like a dove and remained on Jesus at his moment of baptism, John saw it. He was in the Jordan River baptizing his cousin, Jesus. He witnessed that holy, amazing moment. He knew Jesus was the one to follow — not him — and so, he told his two followers just that.

“Look, there’s the Lamb of God. That’s who you want to follow,” said John. So off they went after Jesus. Jesus, sensing he was being followed, turned and asked them bluntly, “What are you looking for?” To which they replied, “Where are you staying?”

What kind of question was that? So much meaning gets lost in translation as our modern ears hear this as a question of actual location or a curiosity about how one is living. But the former followers of John who wanted to be in the Jesus club, were not wanting to know if Jesus was in a hip neighborhood or residing in a swanky dwelling. Their question we discover is much deeper for the Greek word we translate into “staying” should read “abide.”

The word “abide” is an important one in John’s Gospel. It is used 10 times in the first 10 verses in John 15. The biblical definition for abide means “to be held or kept” or “to remain.” So, what the soon-to-be followers of Jesus wanted to know was who was holding this prophetic teacher. Who was “keeping” Jesus — keeping him safe, secure, steadfast?

Jesus’ reply “come and see” is also one that goes deeper than an invitation to tour his home and have a cup of tea. Jesus’ “come and see” is an invitation to an adventure that unfolds throughout the entire Gospel of John.

Come and see how I abide in God. Come and see the importance of abiding in me as I abide in you. Come and see how, with God, you will always be held tightly.

Let’s now revisit this story. Jesus walks by and we realize he is the one we need to follow. Just as we catch up with his flowing robes, he turns to us and asks, “What are you looking for?”

Pause here and really think about your answer. What have you been looking for? What have been our expectations of Jesus? What is it we hope to discover? Now dare to ask the question, “Where are you abiding?”

Show us, Lord, once and for all, how we can also remain in the safe and transformative care of God, so that we can face the trials of this life victoriously — and with grace.

Tell us, Lord, where you abide because we would like to abide there as well. Let us end our time together praying the words of the great old hymn, “Abide with Me.”

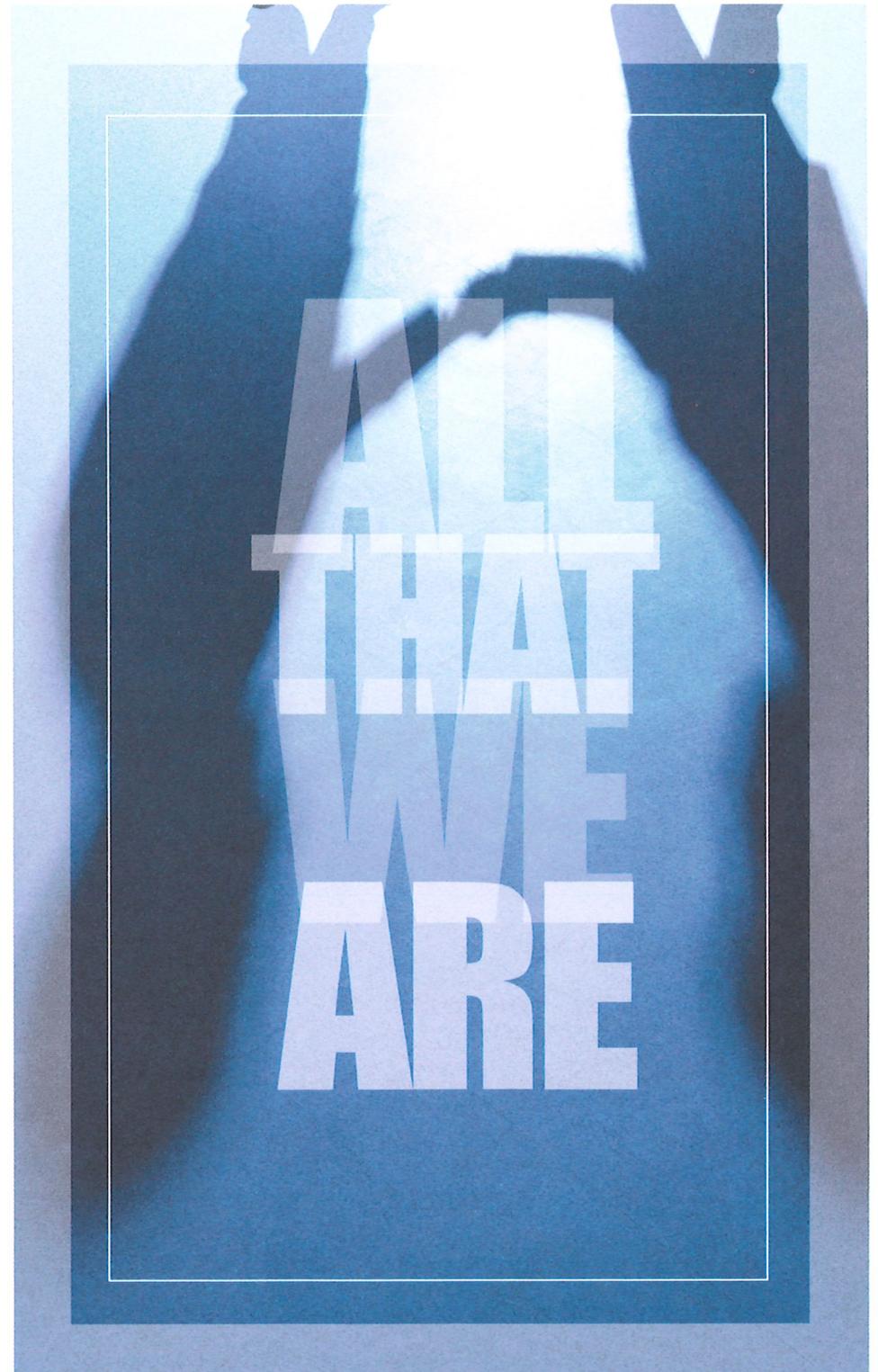
Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me. May it be so. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s Sunday Bulletin.)



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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Bismarck-Mandan Area
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

January 18, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Carrie Mandigo

Music: Jeanne Kolberg | Video: James Mandigo

*Rise in body or in spirit.



***NO MATTER**

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
You're welcome, welcome in this place.
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

***CALL TO WORSHIP¹**

All: Prepare a way for the Lord.

***OPENING PRAYER**

***HYMN** Your Ways Are Not Our Own NCH 170

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 1:1-10

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited to remain in worship or attend Sunday School after the Offering.

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, our heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Faithful God, you call us to be saints, but we are more comfortable with the role of sinner. You call us to be your servants, but we worry that we lack the skills to do your work. You put a new song of praise in our mouths, but we stumble on unfamiliar words. You show us the work to be tackled, but we turn away defiant, insisting we have more important things to do. Put your song on our lips and in our hearts, and remind us of the joy that awaits us when we put our trust in you. Amen.

***GLORIA**

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 40:1-11

CHOIR ANTHEM

Immortal, Invisible

SCRIPTURE

John 1:29-42

SERMON

HYMN Be Still and Know Sing! 111

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN** Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing NCH 77

***CARRY GOD'S LOVE**

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from [ONE LICENSE](https://www.onelicense.com/), License #732302-A.
¹ Adapted from John Birch. "Faith and Worship."



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Sponsored in Honor of Herb & Lilian Wilson



Today is sponsored in honor and memory of our parents, Herb and Lilian Wilson. Their 81st anniversary would have been on the 20th. Their last anniversary was celebrated at UCC!

Sponsored by Penny Wilson & Fran Mack

The 2026 is up with most Sundays still available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Bismarck UCC Annual Meeting - Feb. 1 at 11 AM

Annual Reports are available for pickup and online starting today. We still have one opening on the Christian Education committee, which plans Sunday School events and generates ideas for educational events for all ages.



MLK Event - Jan. 19 at 6 PM

Enjoy a variety of local music groups, hear guest speaker Ryan Taylor, and celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr at this year's MLK event on January 19 at 6pm at Trinity Lutheran, Bis.



Dine 'n De-stress - Jan. 25 at 5:15 PM

Stressed out about our divisive political climate and unsure of how to respond? Join for conversations and support as we build connections and community. Held at Lucky's 13 (915 S 3rd St, Bis.)

Paint Party - Feb. 8 at 2 PM

Our artist-led paint party is back. Come and learn to paint your own Northern Lights masterpiece. The class is led by Nina Loeks with Art from the Heart. Sign up by the church bulletin board to reserve your spot. The cost is \$30 per person and includes all supplies. Due at time of class.



THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: January 18 - 25

- Sunday:** 11 AM Fellowship
11:15 AM Christian Education (in-person & [online](#))
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
- Monday:** Church Office Closed
6 PM Martin Luther King Jr Celebration
(Trinity Lutheran Church, 502 N 4th St)
- Tuesday:** 1 PM Quilting/Knitting
6 PM Palm Sunday Path Training
(Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1143 N 26th St)
- Wednesday:** 6 PM Youth Group & Confirmation
7 PM Choir Practice
- Thursday:** 6 PM Find Your Balance (in-person & [online](#))
- Friday:** 8:30 AM Bible Study (in-person & [online](#))
- Sunday:** 10 AM Worship
10:20 AM Sunday School
11 AM Fellowship
11:30 AM Council (in-person & [online](#))
12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
5:15 PM Dine 'n De-Stress (Lucky's 13)

Bismarck Interfaith Potluck - Feb. 7, 11:30AM - 1PM

Held at Lord of Life Lutheran (1143 N 26th St). Join friends and neighbors for good food, connection, and a hands-on lesson in making plarn mats for our community.

OUR PRAYER LIST

Sandy Kirby (Autum's sister), Matthew Nitschke, Family of Sandra (Dan Domagala's mother), Nolan Myles McLemore (Amanda Wilson's grandson), Emerson & Lennon (Wanda & Jeffery Benson's grandsons), Bonnie Frederick, Kathy Rudolph, Sheyla Munoz (Autum's sister-in-law), Tasha Hausauer (John Sauter's cousin), Hayes & Cooper (Brandon & Tasha Domagala's sons), Diana, Amanda Wilson, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Pam Crawford, Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Leona Staiger (Helen Lindgren's sister), Colby (Janice & Gary Sather's son), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, Camille Grothier, East Timor, Refugees

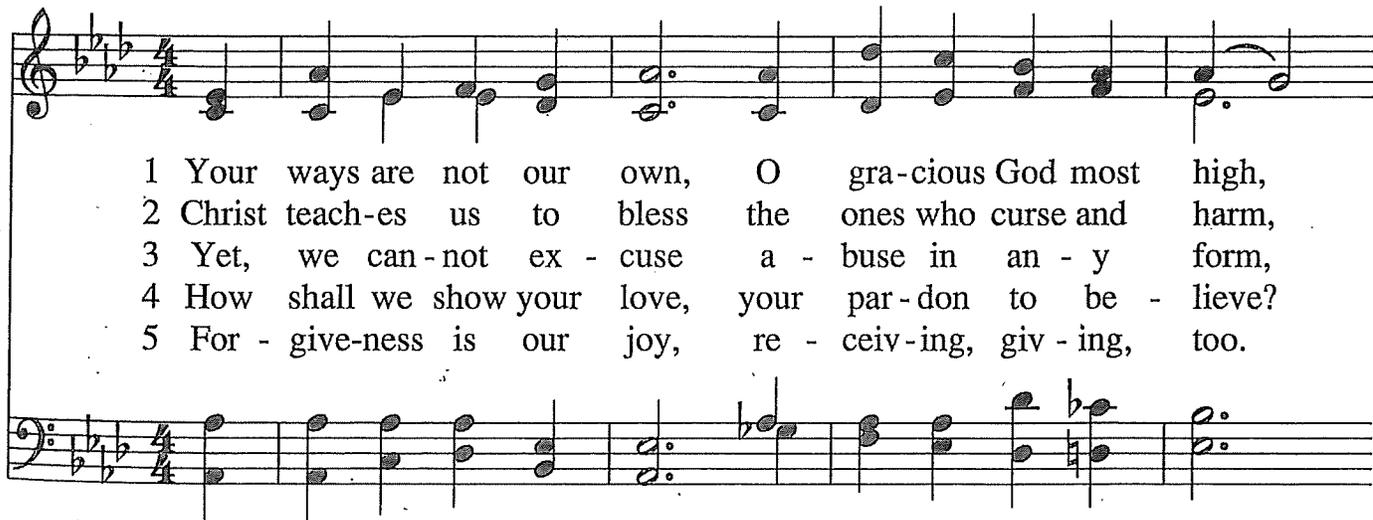
*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

Your Ways Are Not Our Own

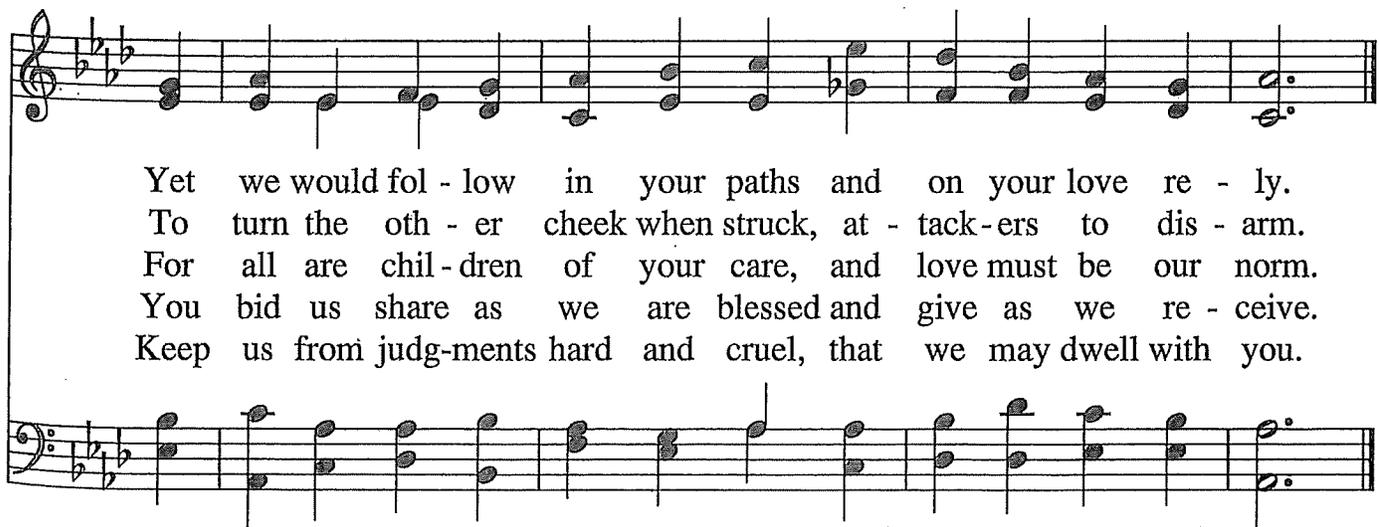
170

Lavon Bayler, 1988, rev. 1993

Luke 6:17-38; Rom. 12:9-21



1 Your ways are not our own, O gra-cious God most high,
2 Christ teach-es us to bless the ones who curse and harm,
3 Yet, we can-not ex-cuse a-buse in an-y form,
4 How shall we show your love, your par-don to be-lieve?
5 For-give-ness is our joy, re-ceiv-ing, giv-ing, too.



Yet we would fol-low in your paths and on your love re-ly.
To turn the oth-er cheek when struck, at-tack-ers to dis-arm.
For all are chil-dren of your care, and love must be our norm.
You bid us share as we are blessed and give as we re-ceive.
Keep us from judg-ments hard and cruel, that we may dwell with you.

Lavon Bayler has served on the Illinois Conference staff of the United Church of Christ beginning in 1979. She maintains a faithful practice of writing worship materials as part of her daily spiritual discipline and has published several books of resources.

Tune: SCHUMANN S.M.
Cantica Laudis,
Lowell Mason and G. J. Webb, 1850

Be Still and Know

111

♩=108

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and
 Cal - ma tu ser, que soy tú; Dios. Cal - ma tu

know that I am God. Be still and know
 ser, que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu ser,

that I am God. Be still and
 que soy tú Dios. Cal - ma tu

know that I am God.
 ser, que soy tú Dios.

**May be sung as a round beginning at measure two.*

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Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Luke 2:29; Rom. 1:16

Attrib. to John Fawcett, 1773; alt.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the

joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

Influenced by George Whitefield's preaching, John Fawcett joined the Baptist church, and served as minister in Wainsgate, England, for fifty-four years. Yielding to the persuasion of his

Tune: SICILIAN MARINERS 8.7.8.7.8.7.

Sicilian melody, 18th century

The European Magazine and Review, 1792