

Waupun United Methodist Church, Waupun, WI
Worship Music – 11/7/2021

Gather Us In

**Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in - the lost and forsaken, gather us in - the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young - our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old – who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.**

**Gather us in - the rich and the haughty, gather us in - the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, lightyears away,
but here in this place the new light is shining, now is the Kingdom, now is the day.**

**Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own gather us in –
all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

Bible Reading

Readers' Theatre: Ruth 1: 1-18

One: In the days when the judges ruled in Israel,
a severe famine came upon the land.
So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home
and went to live in the country of Moab,
taking his wife and two sons with him.
The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi.
Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion.
They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah.
And when they reached Moab, they settled there.
Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons.
The two sons married Moabite women.
One married a woman named Orpah,

and the other a woman named Ruth.

But about ten years later, both Mahlon and Kilion died.

This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

Then Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again.

So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland.

With her two daughters-in-law

she set out from the place where she had been living,

and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,

Two: Go back to your mothers' homes.

And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me.

May the LORD bless you with the security of another marriage.

One: Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

Three: No, we want to go with you to your people.

Two: Why should you go on with me?

Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands?

No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes,

for I am too old to marry again.

And even if it were possible,

and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what?

Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else?

No, of course not, my daughters!

Things are far more bitter for me than for you,

because the LORD himself has raised his fist against me."

One: And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi.

Two: Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.

Three: Don't ask me to leave you and turn back.

Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live.

Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.

May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!

One: When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

Hymn of Promise

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**