February 7th, 2021 Down By the River - The Story of Lydia Acts Now! Part 2 - Stories of Making Church Outside a Building **Our Community Gathers** Prelude There Is A Fountain Daphna Pearson (piano & electric piano) Kim Affleck (rain stick) Early American Melody. Arr: Cindy Berry ©1996. Lillenes Publishing. All rights reserved. Welcome God's Doors Are Open to All! Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities to worship. Song MV#3 River Lead: John Foster, Daphna & John Pearson, Bill & Anna Peters. Brian Affleck (Guitar) Words/Music: Julian Pattison © 2003. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A - 720804 Gathering Words & Lighting of the Christ Candle We light a candle each week, and we invite you to light one, too. It's a moment of pause as we create sacred space. Gathering Prayer (unison) **Open Doors** that we may welcome Spirit. Open our minds that we may learn together. **Open our hands** that we may reach out in Love **Open our hearts** that we may live the Story of Jesus and dare to make a difference one act of kindness at a time. May it Be So! Song MV#21 Open Our Hearts Lead: John Foster Words/Music: Jim Strathdee. Desert Flowers Music All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-720804 Open our hearts, open our minds Open our lives to you, O loving God Open our hearts, open our minds Open our lives to you, O loving God, Open our hearts. We Listen for Wisdom

Visions United Spirit Gathering

Words of Introduction

Setting the Stage

Scripture Story Acts 16: 4-15

Lead: Ainsley MacTavish-Hawkes

Brian: guitar; John Foster: whistle; Daphna: pianos Words: Edith Sinclair Downing © 2005 Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc. Tune: Kingsfold, Cmd (1893) Arr/harmony: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906) All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A-720804

We sing of loyal Lydia who dealt in purple dye, a woman Paul and Silas found at prayer in Philippi. Her heart was warmed when she heard Paul relate God's love for all. She and her household were baptized. They answered God's clear call.

This widow tested culture's rules by opening her home to Paul and those who came to hear how they such faith could own. When Paul and Silas were in jail, she suffered deep despair. Yet when the jailer was transformed, she knew God answered prayer.

When her friends moved from Philippi, they left believers blessed. And Lydia helped the church to grow as they their faith confessed. May we today our witness share that other hearts be stirred. Let us take courage as we dare to daily live God's Word.

Reflection

Shawn Redden

We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

Song MV#79 Spirit, Open My Heart (*Ref., v.3, ref*) Lead: Lorna Teed Words: Ruth Duck ©1996. Arr: Arthur G. Clyde ©1997, The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE A - 720804

Our Community at Prayer

Brian Botten

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

Blessing and Changing of the Light

 Song Medley
 VU#575 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me (vs. 1,3,2)

 VU#576 I've Got Peace Like a River (v.1&3)

 Lead: Kim & Brian Affleck, John & Daphna Pearson; Brian Affleck (guitar)

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Thank You for Joining Us! May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.