The Church of Christ
Cannot Be Bound

1. The church of Christ cannot be bound by
calls of wood or stone.
2. True faith will open up the door and
step into the street.
3. True love will not sit idly by when
justice is denied.
4. If what we have we freely share to
meet our neighbor's need,
5. The church of Christ cannot be bound by
walls of wood or stone.

Where charity and
true service will seek
true mercy hears the
then we extend the
Where charity and
love are found, there can the church be known.

out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
homeless cry and welcomes them inside.
spirit's care through every selfless deed.
love are found, there can the church be known.

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

TEXT: Adam M. L. Tice, 2005
MUSIC: African American spiritual; Jubilee Songs, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940
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