



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Prelude and Fugue in E Minor" J. S. Bach

() Indicates that all are invited to stand*

*CALL TO WORSHIP ⁽¹⁾

One: Welcome today to a celebration of God's love!

All: We are grateful for this welcome.

One: Embrace the loving power of God at work in our lives and world.

All: We open our hearts and lives to receive God's blessings.

One: Come, let us worship God who is always with us.

All: God, be with us today as we listen for your words of hope.

*GATHERING HYMN "Now Thank We All Our God" #419 New Century Hymnal vv. 1-2

(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)**

Loving God, like Joseph, we don't always understand why things happen the way they do; why our plans and dreams fail, and we find ourselves facing challenge after challenge, and disappointment after disappointment.

We confess that we forget you are at work in our lives, and grant us a purpose larger than ourselves.

Forgive us, and give us faith to trust in you no matter what challenges we face.

Forgive us, and give us courage to follow where you lead, confident that your loving presence is always near. *(silent confession)*

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Our God kisses us with kindness, forgiving sins and restoring spirit, through the gift of Jesus Christ, who is the gift of grace.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Now Thank We All our God" v.3**

**All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN: Blessing of the Backpacks

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 45:1-15

Pew Bible p.37

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION: "Help Us Accepted Each Other" #388 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, God, among us, and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O God, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**

**God, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
Renew us with your Spirit; God! Free us, make us one!**

RESPONDING

We respond to God's Word through our prayers and our gifts.

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" Arr. Don Hustad
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "We Give You But Your Own" #785 *New Century Hymnal*
**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

COMMISSIONING HYMN: “This is a Day of New Beginnings” #417 *New Century Hymnal
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that’s gone.**

**For by the life and death of Jesus, God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.**

**Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring, step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, Seeking new paths, and sure to find.**

**Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings—our God is making all things new.**

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Prelude in Classic Style" Gordon Young

SENDING

With God’s blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

Worship Endnotes: 1. Adapted from www.ministrymatters.com
2. Adapted from www.re-worship.blogspot.com

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Hope United Church of Christ Statement of Welcome and Mission

*No matter where you are on life’s journey, you are invited to enter the big red doors of Hope United Church of Christ. We are an open congregation. We believe that every person is a child of God and all are welcome, regardless of race, economic background, marital status, gender, gender identity(ies) / expression(s), sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, nationality or faith history. It is our mission, inspired by God’s Holy Spirit, to engage persons in living out the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Please come, for all things are ready.*

--Adopted by Hope UCC Congregation August 29, 2010