



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026 10:30 a.m.



Week Four: Empowerment

GATHERING

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

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Hymn to Joy" Wayne L. Wold

() Indicates that all are invited to stand*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The world is changing. We see it everywhere.

All: The world is changing.

One: The world needs to change. Children are hungry. Systems are unjust. People are afraid.

All: The world needs to change.

One: It is God's desire that the world would change into a realm of peace where everyone has what they need.

All: And we are the changemakers.

One: We are called to work alongside the Holy Spirit.
We are called to follow the way of Jesus.

All: May we be changed by this time of worship!

*GATHERING HYMN “Praise to the Living God” #8 *New Century Hymnal* vv.1-3
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
whose word brough forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.**

**Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God’s goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.**

**Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where’er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, you call us to walk humbly before you and to share in the struggle for justice and peace, yet we often fall short of this calling.

When the church becomes the center of our world and we fail to see beyond its walls,

Forgive us, we pray.

When our eyes become so fixed on priorities of our own making, that we fail to look for Jesus in the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, and the outcast,

Forgive us, we pray.

When we praise you with our lips yet fail to reach out to others with acts of loving and caring, justice and mercy.

Forgive us, we pray. *(silent confession)*

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear this assurance of Good News: the scriptures remind us that the “Spirit is poured out on all people.” We can trust that when we work together, we will see and recognize this Spirit in others. Through God’s grace, we are made new and made one.

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Praise to the Living God” v.4**

**Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10: 46-52

Pew Bible p.823

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

SERMON

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Amazing Grace” #547 *New Century Hymnal*

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

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;

‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;

God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise, than when we’d first begun.

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 "Crusaders' Hymn" Silesian Folk Melody; Arr. Frederick Swann
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (tune from "Blessed Assurance")

Praise to the Maker, the One who gives breath.

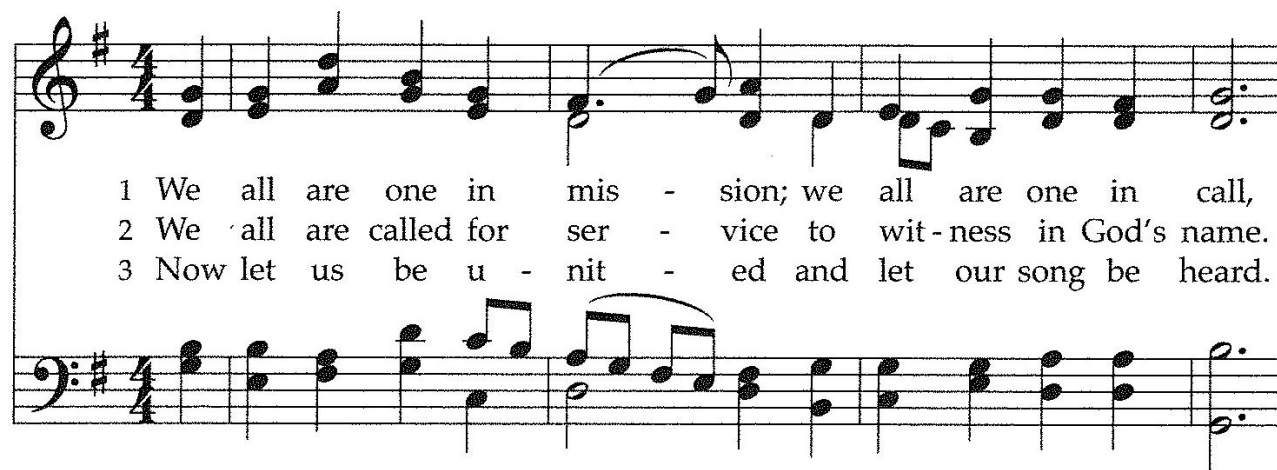
Praise to Christ Jesus, who reigns over death.

Praise to the Spirit, our strength and our friend.

Three-in-One present, world without end.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*COMMISSIONING HYMN: "We All Are One in Mission" #733 *Glory to God Hymnal*



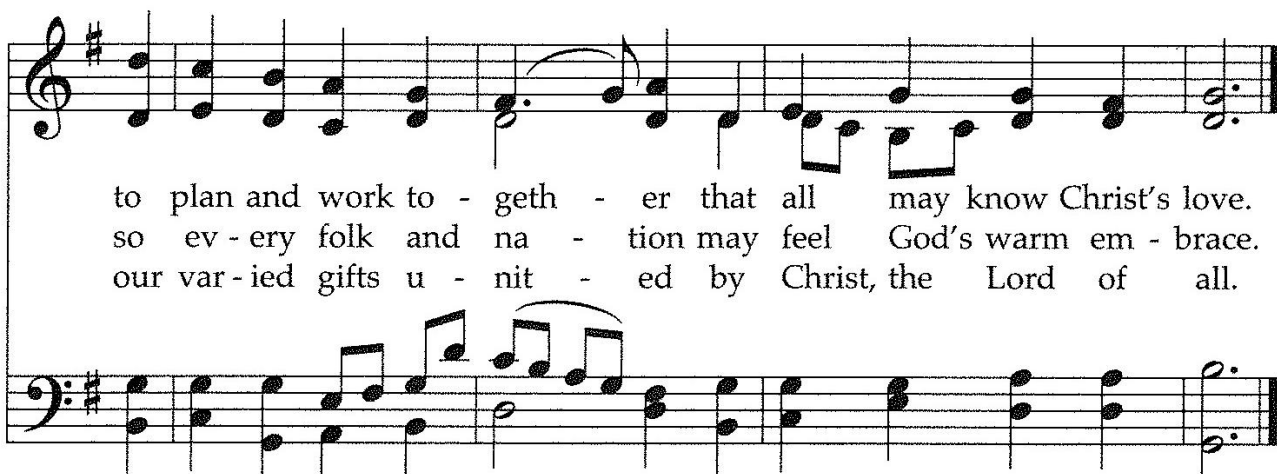
1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.



A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding" Herbert Howells

SENDING

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

Worship Endnotes: prayers adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.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

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*Thanks for your
contribution to the
ministries of Hope UCC!*