



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 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 in G" Felix Mendelssohn

() Indicates that all are invited to stand*

***CALL TO WORSHIP ⁽¹⁾**

One: We worship God who caused the sea to look and flee.

All: God is our strength; we will praise God!

One: We worship God in whose presence the mountains and hills skipped.

All: God is our strength; we will praise God!

One: Tremble, O Earth, at the presence of the Almighty,
the One who turns rock into pools of water and flint into springs.

All: God is our strength; we will praise God!

***GATHERING HYMN: "Crashing Waters at Creation" #325 *New Century Hymnal* vv.1-3**
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**Crashing waters at creation ordered by the Spirit's breath,
First to witness day's beginning from the brightness of night's death.**

**Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,
Washing off the chains of bondage—channel to a life made new.**

**Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the One foretold,
Opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.**

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)

When we participate in ways that hurt others even while we strive for freedom, restore us.

May we trust in your power more than in ourselves.

When we ignore voices that don't agree with us even as we seek to hear calls for justice and hope, give us courage.

May we trust in your power more than in ourselves.

When we quietly or not so quietly rejoice in the ruin of enemies or the hurt of the one who hurts, return us to mercy.

May we trust in your power more than in ourselves.

When we cannot find within us the capacity to forgive others while we hope for forgiveness for ourselves, abide with us in our struggle.

May we trust in your power more than in ourselves. (*silent confession*)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, believe the Good News! Through the grace of God in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE: "Crashing Water at Creation" v.4

Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.

Wellspring, Source of life eternal, drench our dryness, make us whole.

*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 14:21-29 Pew Bible pp.53-54

Matthew 18:21-33 Pew Bible p.800

A Word of God that is still speaking,

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land” #572 vv.1, 3 and 4
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)

**When Israel was in Egypt’s land, Let my people go,
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, Let my people go.**

**Refrain: Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt’s land,
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.**

**No more in bondage shall they toil, Let my people go
Nor spill their blood on Egypt’s soil, Let my people go. Refrain**

**Oh, let us all from bondage flee, Let my people go,
And let us all in Christ be free, Let my people go. Refrain**

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 “Greet the Rising Sun” David Christiansen
(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (tune: “Lasst Uns Erfreuen” *The Hymnal* #15)

**Praise God, the Giver and the Gift,
Hearts, minds and voices now uplift, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the breath of glad surprise, Freeing, uplifting, opening eyes.
Three-In-Oneness, Love Communing, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SENDING

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

***COMMISSIONING HYMN: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #23**

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

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;

There's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;

And our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Trumpet Voluntary" from "Melodic Suite" Charles Callahan

Worship Endnotes

1. Adapted from Feasting on the Word, Year A, Vol.2

2. Adapted from www.ministrymatters.org

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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