



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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 "Arioso" J. S. Bach

() Indicates that all are invited to stand*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** ⁽¹⁾

(based on Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16)

One: We come to worship and praise our God,
and to learn more about the wonders our God creates.

All: How great and wonderful is our compassionate God.

One: We come, with ears and hearts open to God,
ready to discover more of God's mysteries and miracles.

All: How generous and caring is our steadfast God.

One: We gather to share together in our common history,
and to experience the enrichment which that brings us.

**All: All praise and honor to God for past and present blessings,
and for God's merciful love and grace.**

***GATHERING HYMN: “God of Grace and God of Glory” #436 vv.1-4**
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack)
**God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
Crown your ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.**

**From the evils that surround us and assail the Savior’s ways,
From the fears that long have bound us—free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
For the living of these days.**

**Cure your children’s waring madness; bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, make our broken spirits whole,
Make our broken spirits whole.**

**Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces, in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, in the quest for liberty,
In the quest for liberty.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (2)**

One: Patient and ever-faithful God, we come to you this morning confessing that we
can be an unsatisfied people.

All: When things are not perfect in our eyes, we murmur and complain and doubt.

One: We lose hope in the people around us and, even worse, we lose hope in you.

All: Forgive our doubts and complaining. Forgive our loss of hope.

One: Let your healing, life-giving waters pour over us and restore our souls. *(silent confession)*

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Open your hearts and minds and souls that the healing waters
of God’s never-ending love and forgiveness may flow into and over you.
Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE: “God of Grace and God of Glory” v.5**

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM

LISTENING

God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 17:1-7 Pew Bible p.56

A Word of God that is still speaking, **thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Sarah Fredriksen McCann

SILENT MEDITATION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Christ Is the Mountain of Horeb” #45 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

Christ is the Mountain of Horeb which is flowing:

Water of life pour forth to heal, to make us whole.

Christ is the Mountain of Horeb which is flowing:

Water of life pour forth to heal, to make us whole.

**Flower of flowers, the Lily of the Valley,
the Rose of Sharon, blooming pure and free for you.
O Christ, the pathway of love above all loves,
Eternal Fountain of salvation flowing free.**

RESPONDING

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM/ RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

INVITATION

The church is a community of people with varieties of gifts,
united by the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ.

**It is the spirit of caring for one another, of forgiving,
of helping each other, of love revealed in the life, death,
And resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

This church is a people of God, with a diversity of needs, ideas, and visions,
inspired by the Spirit present at the baptism of Jesus and renewed through the
words and deeds of Jesus. May that same Spirit rest upon us all.

**We are a family. By our baptisms, we find our common ground within the covenant
community. When one family member suffers, all suffer together. When one family
member rejoices, all rejoice together.**

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

ACT OF BAPTISM

WELCOME AND RECEPTION

Let us, the members and friends of Hope United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ:

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETINGS AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE

PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

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 "Meditation in E Minor" George Oldroyd
(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

SENDING

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

***COMMISSIONING HYMN: "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" #77**

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

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;

Let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace:

Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

We give thanks and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;

May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound:

Ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

So that when your love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,

Fear of death shall not appall us, glad your summons to obey:

May we ever, may we ever live with you in endless day.

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Intermezzo in C"

Hermann Schroeder

Worship Endnotes

1. Adapted from www.re-worshipblogspot.com

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