



Henrietta United Church of Christ

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Pastor: Rev. Martha Koenig Stone

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Church Administrator: Andrea Folan

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Ministers: Everyone!

Order of Worship

10:30 AM

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 11, 2022

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

CENTERING MUSIC (*in unison*)

Suzanne Milliman, Cantor

God, prepare me to be a Sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving I'll be a living Sanctuary for You. (2x)

Adapted from John W. Thompson & Randy Lynn Scruggs

WELCOME!

Pastor Martha

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*one / many*)

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Please greet one another in the spirit of Christ's love and peace by sharing messages of peace with your pew neighbors or in the comments in our broadcast.

SUNG RESPONSE "There's a Spirit of Love in This Place"

There's a spirit of love in this place, there's a spirit of love in this place.

You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air.

There's a spirit of love in this place.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.

O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place

Words and Music by Mark Miller, © 2003.

WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S RENEWING PRESENCE

***+CALL TO WORSHIP** (*one / many*)

When the lost are found, there is joy!

When hope overcomes despair, there is joy!

When forgiveness restores community, there is joy!

*Then let us worship God, who seeks us in love,
and rejoices in our return!*

***OPENING HYMN** “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount: I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; alt. Tune: NETTLETON, by John Wyeth, 1813

+PRAYER OF RENEWAL *(in unison)*

Gracious and loving God, we find it difficult at times to place our trust in you. Too often we look at the world and see only violence and pain, hopelessness and despair. Too often we rely on our own strength, our own plans, our own devices, rather than trusting in your hand to hold us, your love to sustain us, and your wisdom to guide our path. Forgive us, Holy One! Help us turn to you when we are lost, that we might find our way home...*(we pray in silence)*... May the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus shine also in our lives for all to see. Amen.

+WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE *(one / many)*

Jesus said, “there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” (Luke 15:7)
Friends, rejoice: Our God forgives us and welcomes us in love.

Alleluia and amen!

CHILDREN'S TIME

Blessing of Backpacks

Dedication of Teachers

ANTHEM “Walk Along Beside Me, O My Lord” by Don Besig HUCC Choir

After the anthem, children and youth may go to their classes: ages 0-4 in the nursery behind the sanctuary, K-5th grade in the elementary classroom, and grades 6-12 in the youth room.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15:1-10

Phoenix Hoffman

MESSAGE

“Reconnecting, Renewing, Rejoicing”

Pastor Martha

***HYMN**

“This is a Day of New Beginnings”

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!

Text: Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983. Tune: BEGINNINGS, by Carlton R. Young, 1987

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE

INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING

SONG OF PRAISE (*in unison*)

Praise God, who welcomes us with grace, who blesses every time and place,
whose Christ shows every person's worth, whose Spirit gives us all new birth!

Text and tune adapted from the Geneva Psalter (1551)

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Let us pray together. . .*)

**Gracious and loving God,
we bring our gifts this day
and ask that they be used
to help the needy in our community
and throughout the world.
As we offer these gifts,**

**we offer ourselves as well,
that together we might transform the world
with your grace and love. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eric Falla

***SENDING HYMN** "Help Us Accept Each Other"

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!

Text: Fred Kaan, 1974; alt. Tune: AURELIA, by Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Robin Bower

Please remain seated for the Postlude.

*Following the service, members are asked to stay for the congregational meeting
to discuss and vote on calling Pastor Martha as Senior Pastor.
Others are invited for cake and conversation outside on the lawn & playground.*

**WE RETURN TO THE WORLD
RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD'S SPIRIT**

As our worship ends, our service begins.

+ Portions of today's worship were adapted from materials by Karin Ellis, in "Worship Elements: September 11, 2022," found at <https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/4148/worship-elements-september-11-2022>.

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