



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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

CENTERING MUSIC (*in unison*)

Joan Barnes, 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*)

Come! God calls us to a place of promise and possibility.

Let us become a house of welcome,

a field of sunflowers,

a vineyard of nourishment and care.

Come to a shared commitment and a vision of abundance for all.

**Let us become like an earthenware jar,
safeguarding tomorrow for all of earth's children.
*Our security is the Word of God,
and our password is love.***

***OPENING HYMN** "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"

Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
Source and end of human knowledge,
Grace bestowing without cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
Power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ, who feeds the hungry,
Frees the captive, finds the lost,
Heals the sick, upsets religion,
Fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence—
Friend and Stranger, Guest and Host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
Liberating truth from pride,
Forging bonds where race or gender,
Age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure—
Foolishness none dare deride.
Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
One God in Community,
Calling Christians to embody
One-ness in diversity.
Thus the world shall yet believe when
Shown Christ's vibrant unity.

Words by The Iona Community; alt. © 1985; used by permission of G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Tune by John Goss, 1869.

PRAYER OF RENEWAL *(in unison)*

Ever-present One, when all seems lost, you remain at our side. When we forget you, you do not forget us. When we ignore each others' needs, you call us to care and to reach out. In our silence, help us to hear your call and know your healing... [silent prayer] Break us free from all that entombs us, as we answer your call and follow your path. Amen.

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

God’s loving presence never abandons us, not even when we abandon God. God delivers us with forgiveness and mercy, and leads us with vision and hope. Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN’S TIME

ANTHEM

“Come and Fill This Place”

Choir

By Shane McConnell; Arr. Jim Hammerly

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 READING

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15

Dawn Pixley

MESSAGE

“Investing in God’s Future”

Pastor Martha

HYMN

“Let Justice Flow Like Streams”

Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
Enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.

Let righteousness roll on, as others’ cares we heed,
An everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.

So may God’s plumbline, straight, define our measure true,
And justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

Words by Jane Parker Huber, 1984; Tune: ST. THOMAS, in Aaron Williams’ New Universal Psalmist, 1770

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. . .*)

God of possibility, help us to offer our resources, our time, our abilities and our compassion, as a tangible expression of hope, for the good of your world. May our gifts bring renewal, both to this community and to others near and far. 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

"Lead Us from Death to Life"

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
let peace fill our universe.

Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
come and teach us your way of compassion.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
let peace fill our universe.

So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
longing for love to break into their anguish.
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
come and teach us your way of compassion.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
let peace fill our universe.

Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
let us begin to grow into your people.
We can be love, we can bring peace,
we can still be your way of compassion.

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
let peace fill our universe.

*Refrain by Satish Kumar; Stanzas by Marty Haugen; Tune: WORLD PEACE PRAYER by Marty Haugen, 1985;
Stanzas and Music © 1985 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Robin Bower

Please remain seated to enjoy the postlude.

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD RENEWED AND EMPOWERED BY GOD

As our worship ends, our service begins.

+ Portions of today's worship were adapted from "In an Earthenware Jar: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost," by the Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi, © 2022 *The National Setting of the United Church of Christ*, found at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-21c-september-25/>.

++ The Words of God's Enduring Love were adapted from the "Words of Assurance" in *Worship Elements: September 25, 2022*, from *The Abingdon Worship Annual*, edited by Mary J. Scifres and B.J. Beu, Copyright © Abingdon Press, found at <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4213/worship-elements-september-25-2022>.

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