



## 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**  
**Just Peace Sunday**

**September 17, 2023**

### ***WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST***

#### **CENTERING MUSIC**

Melissa Bauch, Cantor

Welcome into this place. Welcome into this broken vessel.  
You desire to abide in the praises of your people,  
so we lift our hands and we lift our hearts  
as we offer up this praise unto your name. (repeat)

Words and Music: Orlando Juarez; Arr. Jimmie Abbington and Darryl Glenn Nettles;  
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#### **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!  
Messages of peace may be shared 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 Abingdon Press.

## **WE OPEN OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S RENEWING PRESENCE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*one, many*) – Psalm 103:1-5

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all God's benefits:**

God forgives your sins, and heals your diseases,

**God redeems your life from the Pit,  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

God satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good"

Sing Praise to God, our highest good, profound respect expressing.  
God gives us health, life, livelihood, with every needed blessing.  
To God, who wondrous works performs, creating life and calming storms,  
to God give praise and glory!

Creation thanks you, Holy One: you made us and renew us.  
Delighted at what you have done, you show your greatness through us.  
So may all living things proclaim the wonders of their Maker's name:  
to God give praise and glory!

What God has made, God will preserve, with righteousness unending.  
Regardless what we may deserve, we see this good prevailing.  
To God who governs evermore with justice serving rich and poor,  
to God give praise and glory!

I cry to God, in pain and grief, "Please, God of mercy, hear me!"  
My certain help provides relief, faith, hope, and love to cheer me.  
So let me sing, joyful and free: ah, thankful Christians, sing with me:  
to God give praise and glory!

Text: Johann J. Schütz, 1675; Transl. © 1993 Madeleine Forell Marshall. Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART from Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesäng, 1566. Harmonization: Maurice F. Bell, © 1906 Oxford University Press. From THE ENGLISH HYMNAL, 1906.

**+PRAYER OF RENEWAL** (*one / many*)

God of grace, we confess that we can be judgmental and hyper-critical of our neighbors, family, and friends. We project our own shortcomings on others in order to deflect attention from our mistakes. We seek forgiveness for the

wrongs we have done, yet we hesitate to forgive ourselves and others. Hear us as we name our need...*(silence)*...

**O God, you have shown us the better way. Help us to follow your path – receiving and extending forgiveness, thus making room for transformation. In mercy, O God, hear our prayer, and let us forgive as you forgive. Amen.**

**WORDS OF GOD’S ENDURING LOVE** (*one / many*) – *Psalm 103:9-12*

God is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**God will not always accuse,  
nor harbor anger forever;**

God does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.

**For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is God’s steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

Thanks be to God!

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

Pastor Martha

**ANTHEM**

“Refuge”

HUCC Choir

Words based on Psalm 46:1-2 & Isaiah 43:2-3  
Music by Keith Christopher

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S GOOD NEWS**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 18:21-35

Phoenix H

**MESSAGE**

“Not Again?!”

Pastor Martha

**\*HYMN**

“If I Have Been the Source of Pain, O God”

If I have been the source of pain, O God;  
If to the weak I have refused my strength;  
If, in rebellion, I have strayed away;  
Forgive me, God.

If I have spoken words of cruelty;  
If I have left some suffering unrelieved;  
Condemn not my insensitivity;  
Forgive me, God.

If I've insisted on a peaceful life,  
Far from the struggles that the gospel brings,  
When you prefer to guide me to the strife,  
Forgive me, God.

Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer,  
And free me from temptation's subtle snare,  
With tender patience, lead me to your care.  
Amen, Amen.

*Spanish text: Sara M. de Hall; from a text by C.M. Battersby; Trans. Janet w. May, ©1992 The Pilgrim Press. Tune: CMAQUA, © 1988 Pablo Sosa.*

## **WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE**

**INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING**

Pastor Martha

**OFFERTORY**

"Invocation" by Marty Parks

Laurie Fox

**\*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! Amen.

*Text and tune (Old Hundredth) adapted from the Genevan Psalter (1551).*

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

**Merciful God, receive our humble offerings as a testimony to your provision, a demonstration of our love, and a step toward the forgiveness you require of us. May these gifts be magnified and multiplied for the benefit of our community and all creation. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER** (*in 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**

**“O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer”**

O my soul, bless your Redeemer; all within me bless God’s name;  
bless the Savior, and forget not all God’s mercies to proclaim.

God forgives all your transgressions, all diseases gently heals;  
God redeems you from destruction, and with you so kindly deals.

Far as east from west is distant, God has put away our sin;  
like the pity of a father has the Lord’s compassion been.

As it was without beginning, so it lasts without an end;  
to their children’s children ever shall God’s righteousness extend.

*Text: The Book of Psalms, 1871, alt. Music: Witt’s Psalmodia Sacra, 1715; harm. William Henry Havergal, 1847, alt.*

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor Martha

**POSTLUDE**

**“When Morning Gilds the Skies”**  
By Joseph Barnby; Arr. Lloyd Larson

Laurie Fox

***WE RETURN TO THE WORLD TO SHARE OUR HOPE***

*As our worship ends, our service begins.*

+ adapted from Cheryl A. Lindsay, in “Worship Ways: September 17, 2023,”  
<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-15a-september-17/>.

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