



Stewardship Sunday 2023



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

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023
Stewardship Sunday

WE GATHER AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

CENTERING MUSIC

“The Saints of God”

HUCC Bell Choir

Tune: GRAND ISLE by John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1940)

Arranged by Sondra K. Tucker

WELCOME

Pastor Martha

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** (*one / many*)

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

Please rise and greet one another in the spirit of Christ's love and peace!

Messages of peace may be also shared in the comments in our broadcast.

***SUNG RESPONSE** “There’s a Spirit of Love in This Place” Sami Lindsey, Cantor

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*) –based on Psalm 100

Pastor Martha

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

**We will worship the Lord with gladness,
and come into God’s presence with singing.**

Know that the Lord is God;

It is God who has made us, and we belong to God.

We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture;

**We will enter the Lord's gates with thanksgiving,
and go into God's courts with praise.**

Give thanks to God, and bless God's name!

**For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever,
and God's faithfulness extends to all generations.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parents' arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed.
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God our Maker now be given,
To Christ, and Spirit, too, our help in highest heaven.
The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt. Tune: NUN DANKET by Johann Crüger, 1647; Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (*one / many*) – Author Unknown

Pastor Martha

O God, we come with thanks today for all that you have given. You have entrusted us with the earth, to care for the environment and to build a world of justice and peace. You have entrusted us with your precious children, to love and nurture along their way. You have entrusted us with the future of this community and the message it is called to share. You have entrusted us with intelligence and creativity, to use for the good of all. In Jesus, you have shown us your generous and forgiving Spirit, that we might never give in to despair. Fill us now with gratitude, as we name your many gifts ... (silent prayer) ... **In prayerful anticipation, we open ourselves to you, and hope to do our best with all you have given. Amen.**

WORDS OF GOD'S ENDURING LOVE (*one / many*) – from Ephesians 2:8

People of God, rejoice! For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith. This is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM "Thanksgiving Joy!" HUCC Choir
Words and music by Joseph M. Martin

CHILDREN'S TIME Pastor Martha

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:14-30 Tracy Meyer

MESSAGE "The Way of Christ?" Pastor Martha

***HYMN** "For the Fruit of All Creation"

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1970; © 1970 Hope Publishing Co. Tune: ARD HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional melody; Harm. L.O. Emerson, 1906.

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO GOD'S SERVICE

INVITATION TO GRATEFUL GIVING: HUCC Mission Statement (*all / left / right*)

Henrietta United Church of Christ is a diverse and welcoming Christian community. Rooted in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we seek to reflect and embody Jesus' love for all people and all creation, as we:

Celebrate God's grace through worship and praise;

Listen for God's voice through the study of ancient testimonies and scriptures, daily prayer and meditation, and attention to God's present activity in the world;

Empower people across the generations

through Christian education, spiritual nurture and fellowship;

Reach out with compassion to those in need at home and abroad;

**Create a safe, open and affirming community for all,
regardless of ability, race, age, gender, sexual orientation,
gender identity/expression, or means;**

Foster faithful care of the earth and all that is in it;

Practice our faith in daily acts of ministry;

Work with other organizations of the United Church of Christ
and with other faith communities

to promote God's reign of love, justice and peace;

Invite others to journey in faith with us.

*We walk this path, trusting always in God's power
to transform our lives and our world.*

***INGATHERING OF PLEDGES**

During the offertory, you are invited to come forward with your pledge cards, time & talent surveys, and offerings, placing them in the basket as a sign of your commitment to the ministries at HUCC and beyond. Ushers will collect gifts from those who are unable to come forward. Before returning to our seats, we will pause in the side aisles, circling around the sanctuary to pray and sing our thanks.

***OFFERTORY**

“Since I Have Been Redeemed”

Laurie Fox

By Mary McDonald; Tune: OTHELLO by Edwin O. Excell (1884)

***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. . .) – Author Unknown*

O God, we have come to your table with gifts – gifts of ourselves, gifts of risk, gifts of newness, gifts of wealth, gifts of trust, gifts of prayer. We thank you for the chance to give, and pray that all who are blessed by these gifts will catch the Spirit of your love. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Martha

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**

“Take My Gifts”

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free; now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away, now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed, harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God, spiced with humor, laced with laughter – flavor of the Jesus life, tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer – gifts that I have yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1991; Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE by Colin Gibson, 1991; © 1992 Hope Publishing Company.

BENEDICTION

Pastor Martha

POSTLUDE

“Reflection on ‘Kremser”

Laurie Fox

By David Lasky; Tune: KREMSEK (Dutch Melody)

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD TO SHARE OUR HOPE

As our worship ends, our service begins

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