



Hope Church
Wampanoag Trail
East Providence- Rhode Island

**Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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East Providence, Rhode Island 02915**

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Rev. Robert W. Nolan, Pastor

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Hope Congregational UCC

Order of Worship 08-13-2023, 10:30 AM
11th Sunday after Pentecost

*“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s
journey, you are welcome here!”*

- *Where you see this, please stand.*

Gathering Music:

Austin Burns

Welcome & Announcements (see back of bulletin)

Deacon

- **Call to Worship**

One: God moves among us.

**Many: We welcome your presence, Lord, no matter
by what means you arrive.**

One: Reach out your hand and I shall always be with
you.

**Many: We reach for you, Jesus, and trust that you
are present when we fear or ache.**

One: Your presence, Oh Lord, calms the seas as it
calms our hearts.

**Many: May we rest assured that you are ever
present with us, assuaging our worries as you
love our anxieties into softness.**

- **Opening Hymn: Just a Closer Walk with Thee
No. 504**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & RECONCILIATION

Deacon

One: God our gentle parent, bring calm to the storms that batter us and blow us off course. We do not need to walk on water; we need only walk through our lives as whole and holy children who recognize that your love unites us, buoys us, and carries us forward to face miraculous challenges in a complex world.

All: **Help us to see through the clutter of daily existence in order to focus on what is most important: love, compassion, faith, and connection. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Let us pray...
Even when we doubt, God is with us.
God walks beside us, through us, with us, in all that we do.
Miracles are among us if we see ourselves with God's loving gaze.

All: God of so many names, you command us to come to you, yet we are doubtful of our abilities to make the journey. We are so uncertain of our steps, yet we long to have the faith in ourselves that you have in us. Be with us and embolden us through faith to rise as we are called to walk with you and walk alongside those whose need companionship. Show us how to be children of God who can set skepticism down and take up the mantle of faithful presence.

• **Gloria Patri**

734

*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the **Spirit, One**;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

TIME FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Bob

PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Bob: God calls us to create a community which welcomes all:
To care and love unconditionally,
To free us and create a welcome for all.

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also, with you!

Scripture: Mathew 14: 24-36 (The Message) Deacon

²⁴⁻²⁶ Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared to death. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

²⁷ But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

²⁹⁻³⁰ He said, "Come ahead."

Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!"

³¹ Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?"

³²⁻³³ The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the

whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, “This is it! You are God’s Son for sure!”

³⁴⁻³⁶ On return, they beached the boat at Gennesaret. When the people got wind that he was back, they sent out word through the neighborhood and rounded up all the sick, who asked for permission to touch the edge of his coat. And whoever touched him was healed.

Sermon: Are we in the boat? Rev Bob

- **Hymn: I Come to the Garden Alone No. 300**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
PASTORAL PRAYER (INCLUDING PRAYER
CONCERNS)**

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

Lord’s Prayer: (using “debts” and “debtors”) All

Prayer Response: Let the Church Say Amen All

*Let the church say amen, Let the church say amen,
Altogether, let the church say amen.*

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY Rev. Bob

Offertory Music: God is on the Move Austin Burns

- **Doxology: “Give Thanks” No. 359**

• **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All

Holy One, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in ways both big and small, in ways miraculous and mundane. Use our gifts to further your loving justice in our communities near and far.

- **Closing Hymn: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
No. 574**

Benediction

Rev. Bob

Benediction Response (sung): “God Be with You”

(from Chalice Hymnal)

God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you ‘till we meet again.

O---God be with you,

God be with you,

God be with you ‘till we meet again.

Postlude: Improvisation on a standard Austin Burns

PASTOR – Robert W. Nolan

MUSIC LEADER – Austin Burns

DEACON & LAY READER – Lori Russell

Calendar & Announcements

- Rev. Bob has his regular office hours at:
 - Hope Church on Tuesday and Thursday.
 - Riverside Church on WednesdayHe would also like to visit with everyone. If you are interested, contact Rev. Bob directly by phone, (401) 339-6134 or email, nolan062400@gmail.com
- The “Get Crafty” group has suspended meeting for the summer. They will reconvene at Hope Church in September. *They provided us prayer squares, a pocket-sized version of a prayer shawl. You are welcome to take one with you and one for someone you might know!*
- We are searching for a new Music Director and would appreciate any referral by contacting the Music Committee at HopeMusicCommittee@gmail.com.
- Community food pantry @ Riverside Church
Lighthouse Pantry Wednesdays 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM,
Thursdays 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Fridays 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Community thrift shop @ Riverside Church Cobweb Shop Wednesday-Thursday 9-12 & Second Saturdays of the month 9-12.
- And don't forget your used clothing for the St. Pauly shed!