



Hope Church
Wampanoag Trail
East Providence- Rhode Island

**Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Rev. Robert W. Nolan, Pastor

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**Margaret McKiernan, Deacon
Austin Burns Music Director**

Hope Congregational UCC

Order of Worship 09-01-2023, 10:30 AM

15th 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: “You Are My King (Amazing Love)” by Billy J. Foote Austin & Music Team

Welcome & Announcements (see back of bulletin) Deacon Margaret

- **Call to Worship**

One: Let our praise today be made new.

Many: May we sing a new song, pray a new prayer, dance a new dance, and speak and hear a new word.

One: Let the faithful delight in the Holy One’s marvelous acts!

Many: From the seats in the sanctuary to the couches in our homes.

One: Let us glorify God with our voices, the work of our lives, and the joy of our souls.

Many: Glory to God! Praise the Holy One!

- **Opening Hymn: “The Fruit of Love”**

No. 682

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION &
RECONCILIATION**

Deacon Margaret

One: Holy One, we confess that accountability can be discomfoting, and we avoid discomfort. We seek the good enough, convenient, and easy over the good, possible, and hard.

All: **Hold us accountable to the gospel. Hold us accountable to our claim and commitment to follow you. Hold us accountable to your will. Help us to receive your grace and liberate us from shame in order to embrace accountability as a loving act of community.**

Assurance of God’s Grace

One: Let us pray...

Beloved, accountability from God is rooted in love, hope, and mercy. Know that your past actions and attitudes do not define your present nor limit your future. Through God’s grace, you can grow, learn, and thrive.

All: God who journeys with us, we give thanks to be gathered in your presence. May we acknowledge you in the brightness of the day and in the stillness of the night. Provide us a vision of your reign on earth and in our lives. Make us your witnesses to a world in need of hope and peace. Infuse us with your love, and may this time gathered as your people transform us to reflect your goodness in the world.

• **Gloria Patri**

No. 734

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

TIME FOR ALL AGES / Story Moment
Rev. Scott Spencer

PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Scott: 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: James 1: 17-27 (NRSV)

Deacon Margaret

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.^[a] ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰ for human anger does not produce God's righteousness.^[b] ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves^[c] in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being

not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Sermon: “Be Doers of the Word” Rev Scott

- **Hymn: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”
No. 358**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**PASTORAL PRAYER (
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. Scott

**Offertory Music: “Down by the Riverside”
Austin & Music Team**

- **Doxology: “Give Thanks” No. 359**

• PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All

God of abundance and joy, we thank you for the many blessings you have poured on our lives. Receive these gifts, lovingly given, and bless them in your service. AMEN.

- Closing Hymn: “O, How I Love Jesus”
No. 109

Benediction

Rev. Scott

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: “All Good Gifts” (from Godspell) by
Steven Schwartz Austin & Music Team**

Calendar & Announcements

- Rev. Bob will be
 - at Riverside on Wednesday
- Please contact Rev. Bob directly by phone, (401) 339-6134 or email, nolan062400@gmail.com if you would like to visit him during his office hours or at an alternative time.
- The “Get Crafty” group is suspending meetings for the Summer. They will start up again in September.
- **Cobweb Community thrift shop @ Riverside Church Cobweb Shop** Wednesday-Thursdays 9-12 & Second Saturdays of the month 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.
- **Lighthouse Community food rescue mission @ Riverside Church** Wednesdays - Fridays 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.