



Hope Church
Wampanoag Trail
East Providence - Rhode Island

**Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Hope Congregational UCC

Order of Worship 09-03-2023, 10:30 AM

14th Sunday after Pentecost / Baptism of
Maverick Paul Souza

***“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: “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”
Austin Burns**

**Welcome & Announcements (see back of
bulletin) Deacon**

- **Call to Worship**

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

Many: The God of our ancestors is with us!

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

**Many: We call upon the name of our God, and
our God responds.**

One: Give thanks to the Holy One!

**Many: The steadfast and faithful love of our
God lasts forever!**

- **Opening Hymn: “Shall We Gather at the River”** **No. 522**

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & RECONCILIATION

Deacon

One: Forgiving God, we acknowledge that repentance opens the door to forgiveness and transformation.

All: **We turn from our desire for comfort over compassion, easy solutions or challenging resolution, and avoidance over confrontation. We need your strength, fortitude, and conviction to overcome our fear of loss to make room for the gains of new life for ourselves and our neighbors through our generous and sacrificial living.**

Assurance of God’s Grace

One: Let us pray...
God is faithful to forgive and to redeem. God will sustain us through the hard work of confronting truth about ourselves, our communities, and our world.

All: Let us receive the companionship of the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us in all truth.

• **Gloria Patri**

No. 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.*

ORDER FOR BAPTISM

INVITATION & WELCOME

PASTOR Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

All **For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or**

Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

PASTOR Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Reading Mark 10:13-16

Deacon

They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them, “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.” And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

PASTOR The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the

PASTOR Will you teach this child that they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

PARENT AND SPONSOR **We will, with the help of God.**

PASTOR Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

PARENT AND SPONSOR **We do, with the help of God.**

PASTOR Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help this child to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that they may affirm their baptism?

PARENT AND SPONSOR **We do, with
the help of God.**

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

PASTOR Jesus Christ calls us to make
disciples of all nations and to offer
them the gift of grace in baptism.
Do you, who witness and celebrate
this sacrament, promise your love,
support, and care to the one(s)
about to be baptized, as
he/she/they live(s) and grow(s) in
Christ?

All **We promise our love, support,
and care.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH **(all stand)**

PASTOR Let us unite with the church in all
times and places in confessing our
faith in the triune God.

PASTOR Do you believe in God?

All **I believe in God.**

PASTOR Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All I believe in Jesus Christ.

PASTOR Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All I believe in the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM (congregation is seated)

PASTOR Christ be with you.

All And also with you.

PASTOR Let us pray.

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word.

Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from

slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.

Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

(water is visibly poured)

PASTOR

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one/all baptized this day that she/he/they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

PASTOR By what name will your child be called?

PARENTS (“Maverick Paul”)

PASTOR Maverick Paul, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May you be blessed by your Creator, your Redeemer, and your Sustainer.

ALL **Amen.**

PASTOR The Holy Spirit be upon you, name, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

PASTOR We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful for these your children and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member/these

¹⁴ They replied, “Some think he is John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

¹⁵ He pressed them, “And how about you? Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter said, “You’re the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Jesus came back, “God bless you, Simon, son of Jonah! You didn’t get that answer out of books or from teachers. My Father in heaven, God himself, let you in on this secret of who I really am. And now I’m going to tell you who you are, *really* are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.

¹⁹ “And that’s not all. You will have complete and free access to God’s kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven.”

²⁰ He swore the disciples to secrecy. He made them promise they would tell no one that he was the Messiah.

Sermon: Confronting Who We Are Rev Bob

- Hymn: “How Firm a Foundation” No. 411

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: “There’s Something About that Name”
Music Team**

- **Doxology: “Give Thanks” (no repeats)
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: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
No. 501**

***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: “We’ve a Story to Tell the Nations”
Austin Burns**

*PASTOR – Rev. Robert V Nolan
MUSIC DIRECTOR – Austin Burns
DEACON & LAY READER – Margaret McKiernan*

Calendar & Announcements

- Rev. Bob will be in the office this week - on Tuesday and Thursday at Hope Church and Wednesday at Riverside Church. If you wish to visit, contact Rev. Bob directly by phone, (401) 339-6134 or email, nolan062400@gmail.com to arrange your visit.

- Blood Drive – Churches of Riverside – Monday, Sep 25 3:30 – 7:30 PM
 - Where? St. Brendan Church Parish Hall
60 Turner Ave
 - How? Making an appointment is advised – book online, sponsor code is “0553”.
- The “Get Crafty” group ***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!*** *The group is starting their meetings again on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Pickett Room.*
- *The 3Ms are holding their monthly meeting/luncheon on Tuesday, September 19th at 12:30. The meeting will take place at Twin Oaks. Please contact Sarah Tonole at 401-392-1978 if you would like to attend. All our welcome.*
- 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-Thursdays 9-12 &
Second Saturdays of the month 9-12.
- Austin Burns and Elliott Talley are back at the
Rotch-Jones-Duff House in New Bedford for a
duo concert to follow up their sold-out Valentine's
concert last February. The new concert will focus
on music from various Broadway hits such as
Les Mis, The Phantom of the Opera, Showboat,
My Fair Lady and more. It will take place on
Sunday September 17th at 1pm on the grounds
with tented patio seating. Concert tickets are \$15
if you are able (costs help cover musicians,
staffing, and music royalties). However, if that's
a bit steep, you can say you are "friends of
Austin and Elliott" for \$10 tickets. To reserve
your tickets please let Elliott or myself know. You
can email me with your name and number of
reservations at austinbradfordburns@gmail.com
- And don't forget your used clothing for the St.
Pauly shed!