



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

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

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Communion Sunday

*“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: “Blowin’ in the Wind”**

**Austin Burns**

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

**Deacon**

- **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: “Help Us Accept Each Other”  
No. 596

## **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & RECONCILIATION**

**Deacon**

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

## **TIME FOR ALL AGES**

## **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: Matthew 18: 15-20 (NRSVUE) Deacon**

<sup>15</sup> “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**Sermon: Confronting One Another Rev Bob**

**Hymn: “Spirit of the Living God” No. 492**

**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.*

**Offertory Music: “Speak and I Will Listen”**

**Music Team**

- **Doxology: “Give Thanks”**

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his son. And now let the weak say “I am strong” let the poor say, “I am rich”, because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks.*

- **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.**

**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Rev. Bob**

*Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited into this holy mystery. Come.*

**All:           We are ready!**

**UCC Statement of Faith**

**Back of hymnal**

**Rev. Bob:** *Jesus said: “I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.*

**All:** *We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!*

### **Words of Institution**

**Rev. Bob:** *We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .*

**All:** *“Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

**Rev. Bob:** *In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,*

**All:** *“Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.”*

**Rev. Bob:** *Let us pray...Bless us, therefore, by your Holy Spirit that we receive the consecrated bread and fruit of the vine at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.*

**Rev. Bob:** *Through the broken bread...*

**All:** *We participate in the Body of Christ.*

**Rev. Bob:** *Through the cup of blessing . . .*

**All:** *We participate in the new life Christ gives.*

**Rev. Bob:** *These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Let us share the bread and cup together!*

**Sharing of the Elements** (*congregation will approach the Deacon & Pastor, take a piece of bread and dip in the cup; we will come to anyone needing assistance*)

**Communion Meditation “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”**  
**No. 134**

**Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**All**

*Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and make the powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.*



- **Closing Hymn: “In Christ There is No East  
Nor West”** **No. 600**

**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:**

**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](mailto:nolan062400@gmail.com) to arrange your visit.
- The 3Ms are holding their monthly meeting/luncheon on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 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 are welcome.
- Deacons Meeting is September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 via Zoom.
- Property and Finance Meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Pickett Room.
- 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:austinbradfordburns@gmail.com)

- 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!*** Meetings resumed on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Bring a craft and join us!
- 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.
- Save the date! We will be holding our Christmas on the Trail Mini Bazaar on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9-2:00p.m.
- And don’t forget your used clothing for the St. Pauly shed!