



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 09-24-2023, 10:30 AM

17th 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: “With a Grateful Heart” (Muppet’s
Christmas Carol)**

**Welcome & Announcements (back of bulletin) Deacon
Margaret McKiernan**

Call to Worship

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One
forever and ever!

Many: Great is our God and greatly to be praised.

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One
forever and ever!

**Many: This generation will tell the next generation so
they may tell the next generation of the Holy
One’s magnificent and mighty acts.**

One: Bless the name of the Holy and Sovereign One
forever and ever!

Many: We declare the abundant goodness, gracious righteousness, and holy love of our God. Praise the Holy One!

- **Opening Hymn: “This is My Father’s World” No. 21**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION &
RECONCILIATION Deacon Margaret McKiernan**

One: Might God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name.

All: God of abundance, forgive us for embracing a worldview that capitalizes on scarcity. Help us to know that you have given us enough for our journey. You have created us wonderfully and uniquely. Forgive us for comparing ourselves with our neighbor when we are called to love them. Help us to embrace how you have made us as individuals who may bring our singular gifts to our common life.

Assurance of God’s Grace

One: Let us pray...

Beloved, you are enough. God loves you as you are for who you are. You are forgiven and free to embrace the life that is uniquely yours.

All: We, collectively, have enough and may share in a common life where all may flourish and live in harmony as our Creator intended and designed.

• **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: Matt 20:1-16 (NRSVUE)

Deacon

Margaret McKiernan

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made

them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’^[a]¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Sermon: Who’s On First? Rev Bob

- **Hymn: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only
Wise” No. 48**

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: “Surely the Presence” 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**

Great God, please receive our gifts for the glory of your name and the blessing of your people. May we be dedicated stewards of your abundance and use these gifts for the benefit of your kin_dom. Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Open My Eyes, That I May See”
No. 480

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: “Have Thine Own Way, Lord” **No. 486**

Calendar & Announcements

- Rev. Bob will be in the office this week –
 - Tuesday and Thursday at Hope Church
 - 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 has resumed meeting on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM
 - *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!*
- 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.

** World Communion Sunday - October 1*

- Next Sunday we will celebrate this special occasion in unison with all Christian Churches throughout the world. As a part of this celebration, we would like to feature breads from a broad spectrum of cultural and ethnic origins. If you would like to bring a bread, please let our deacons know for our planning. A story on each bread will be featured as they are presented at our communion time of worship next Sunday! After worship, everyone will be able to take a portion of these breads home.

*** Neighbors In Need (NIN) Offering - World Communion Sunday**

- In 2023, the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” The theme continues. This year’s focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

Join us by promoting this year’s NIN “Behold!” campaign at your church. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to

UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

We thank you for your support and generosity.

- And don't forget your used clothing for the St. Pauly shed!