



Hope Church
Wampanoag Trail
East Providence - Rhode Island

**Hope Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Margaret McKiernan, Deacon

Austin Burns Music Director

Hope Congregational UCC

Order of Worship 09-08-2023, 10:30 AM

16th 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: “Ain’t Got Time to Die” (by
Hall Johnson) Austin & Music Team**

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

- **Call to Worship**

One: When the tides of fear seem to overwhelm
us, we cry out....

**Many: Lord, come to us and lead us to paths of
safety!**

One: When we feel lost and alone and we
wonder if anyone cares about us, we cry
out....

**Many: Lord, come and heal our wounded
spirits!**

One: When turbulence within and without seem to threaten us, we cry out...

Many: Lord, bring us peace. AMEN.

- **Opening Hymn: “I’m Gonna Live, So God Can Use Me”** **No. 574**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION &
RECONCILIATION**

Deacon Margaret

One: Lord, we confess that we don’t always turn to you in our troubles. Sometimes we are paralyzed by fear and anxiety. We cannot see “the light at the end of the tunnel”. For us, there is only the ongoing darkness and hopelessness. Clear our sight, O Lord. Bind up our wounded spirits!

All: Fill us with your mercy and love. Forgive us when we stray; when we fear; when we falter. Pick us up and place us on pathways of peace and hope, for we ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

Assurance of God's Grace

One: Let us pray...

No matter what befalls us, the Lord walks with us on the path, bringing us courage and hope.

All: No matter what, we belong to the Lord, now and forever. AMEN.

- **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 / Story Moment 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: James 2: 1-17 (The Message)

Deacon Margaret

2¹⁻⁴ My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, "Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!" and either ignore the street person or say, "Better sit here in the back row," haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted?

5-7 Listen, dear friends. Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently? He chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with full rights and privileges. This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. And here you are abusing these same citizens! Isn't it the high and mighty who exploit you, who use the courts to rob you blind? Aren't they the ones who scorn the new name— "Christian"—used in your baptisms?

8-11 You do well when you complete the Royal Rule of the Scriptures: "Love others as you love yourself." But if you play up to these so-called important people, you go against the Rule and stand

convicted by it. You can't pick and choose in these things, specializing in keeping one or two things in God's law and ignoring others. The same God who said, "Don't commit adultery," also said, "Don't murder." If you don't commit adultery but go ahead and murder, do you think your non-adultery will cancel out your murder? No, you're a murderer, period.

¹²⁻¹³ Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free. For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time.

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

Sermon: Speaking from the Heart Rev Bob

- **Hymn: "Now Let Us From This Table Rise"
No. 715**

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: "We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"
Austin & 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**

Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways. In gratitude for all these blessings and in confidence that our gifts will be used for ministries of peace and hope, we offer these gifts. AMEN.

The Communion Prayer / Words of Institution

Pastor: 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.

People: We are ready!

UCC Statement of Faith (inside cover of hymnal) **All**

Pastor: 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.

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

Pastor: 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..

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

Pastor: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,

People: *“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.”*

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ’s presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . .

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

Pastor: Through the cup of blessing . . .

People: We participate in the new life Christ gives.

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

**Sharing of the Elements “Change My Heart, O
God” (No. 373) Austin & Music Team**

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: “He Leadeth Me” No. 499

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.*

**Closing Music: “Lean on Me” (by Bill Withers)
Austin & Music Team**

Calendar & Announcements

- The “Get Crafty” group resumed meetings on September 5th. They meet on Thursday nights at 6:30 in the Pickett Room. All are welcome.
- The 3Ms will have their monthly meeting on September 17th at Twin Oaks. Please call Sarah Tonole at 401-392-1978 if you would like to attend. All are welcome.
- ***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.