

The United Church of Clinton



May 17, 2026

Pastor, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musician, Kate Lyczkowski

Lay Reader, Mike MacInnis

Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Mental Health Awareness Sunday

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING of the BELL/TIME of CENTER

***CALL to WORSHIP**

One: We gather in the presence of the One who abandons no one.

All: Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.

One: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy through your presence with us.

All: Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a loving relationship with all your children.

One: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

All: Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging—a message that we share with others as we seek to live out Christ's love.

One: We call on the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us.

All: Amen.

***SONG of PRAISE and SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE**

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

#66

***PRAYER of the DAY**

Holy One, we are all seekers. No matter where we are in the world, no matter what our strengths or weaknesses, no matter what our language or our creed, you seek us out with the eternal parental love of the Creator. No matter that You are always present with and for us, no matter that we do not always recognize the form, no matter that we may have a dimness of sight as in a mirror, we continue to seek you with the unquenchable human desire to know You and to rest in You. In You we live and move and have our being. Guide us now to recognize that truth as we gather together with you in this hour. Amen.

***AFFIRMING and CONNECTING (Passing of the Peace) We sing: "Peace be with You".**

*** GLORIA PATRI**

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. (Be seated)

Moment for All God's Children - For All the Mother - Types in Our Lives

Lord's Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

***SONG "O Jesus, I have Promised"**

#621

SCRIPTURE Psalm 66: 8-12, 16-20 (Common English Version)

Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;⁹ he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.¹⁰ For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. ¹¹You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance. ¹⁶Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.¹⁷ I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.¹⁸ If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;¹⁹ but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. ²⁰Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

PRAYER of TRANSFORMATION and NEW LIFE

Lord of All Comfort, we confess that we often carry burdens you have asked us to cast upon you. We have succumbed to anxiety, doubted your presence in our darkness, and neglected to care for our minds and bodies. Forgive us when we try to bear everything alone and when we fail to see the pain in others. Shelter us under your wings of grace and renew a right spirit within us.

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved one, God has marched through the wilderness to find you. You belong with the flock. You are deserving of community and a place to dwell. Out of our Creator's God's goodness, she has provided for you. You may not feel like singing praises in God's name or lifting up a song of joy, and that is okay. God still hears you; you are still a Beloved Child of God.

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Psalm 116: 1-8 (Contemporary English Version)

When the LORD Saves You from Death ¹I love you, LORD! You answered my prayers.²You paid attention to me, and so I will pray to you as long as I live.³Death attacked from all sides, and I was captured by its painful chains. But when I was really hurting,⁴I prayed and said, "LORD, please don't let me die!"⁵You are kind, LORD, so good and merciful.⁶You protect ordinary people, and when I was helpless, you saved me⁷and treated me so kindly that I don't need to worry anymore.⁸You, LORD, have saved my life from death, my eyes from tears,my feet from stumbling.

Meditation - Rev. Marilyn Wilcox ~ Litany "More Good Days, Together" found in insert

Litany ~ "More Good Days, Together"

Leader: Gracious God, you created us for community, knowing that we are better together. On this Mental Health Sunday, we gather to celebrate the hope of "More Good Days, Together."

All: May your Spirit strengthen our minds and protect our hearts.

Leader: We recognize that 1 in 5 people experience a mental health condition each year, and 5 in 5 of us are managing our mental health every day. For the times we have felt isolated, ashamed, or broken, we ask for your healing light.

All: Lord, hear our prayer for comfort and connection.

Leader: We pray against the stigma that keeps us silent. Help us to create spaces of radical belonging, where every unique experience is validated and supported.

All: Help us create more good days, together.

Leader: For those navigating depression, anxiety, trauma, or burnout, we pray for moments of peace and access to the care they need.

All: May your peace, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts.

Leader: We give thanks for counselors, therapists, doctors, and support systems that help us navigate the hard days.

All: We bless the work of healing hands and listening ears.

Leader: As we look toward the future, we commit to being a community that walks alongside one another, understanding that "good" is defined by our unique experiences and goals.

All: With your help, we will move from merely surviving to thriving and flourishing.

Leader: God of comfort, companion on our journey, reminds us that we never walk alone.

All: May your love bind us together, making way for more good days, together. Amen.

(Adapted by Rev. Carol C. Blair, 2026; theme inspired by Mental Health America's 2026 theme of "More Good Days, Together.")

MUSICAL MEDITATION

INVITATION to GENEROSITY

God, our helper, has loaded us with benefits. As we have received comfort, let us offer our gifts to support the work of healing and community. Let us give, that this congregation may continue to be a refuge for the brokenhearted and a safe harbor for mental wellness.

Passing of the Plate

DOXOLOGY (Use whatever words are comfortable for you)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). Amen

PRAYER of DEDICATION and THANKSGIVING

Lord of the Nations, we dedicate these gifts and ourselves to you. May these offerings bring comfort, support mental wellness, and spread your peace. Use our resources to remind the world that you are a Father to the orphaned and a defender of the vulnerable. Amen

*SONG "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#2

BENEDICTION (found in insert)

One: The One who created all that is calls us by name and invites us into a life of abundant Love.

All: We go out into the world as God's beloved people; bringing Holy Love to all whom we meet.

One: Jesus taught us to love one another as fiercely and freely as God loves each of us, with the power that binds us together as the Body of Christ.

All: We will embody Christ by shattering stigma and welcoming all, leaving no one outside.

One: The Spirit fills us with the Breathe of Life and urges us to imagine anew how to be Church in the world today.

All: We will breathe deeply and move beyond what has been and what is. We will follow the Spirit and bring hope and healing to all who live in despair and brokenness. We will be the Church!

SUNG "Amen"

Postlude

* Please stand if you are able.

Bold- Words in bold are said in unison.

Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!

Worship Materials from the Rev. Carolyn C. Blair, 2026 and Others in the Mental Health Network/United Church of Christ. Benediction Liturgy by the Rev. Dr. Rachel Keefe.

During the First Hymn we will collect funds for NAMI. Thank you for your generosity!

Warm Birthday wishes go out to:

Gloria Parkinson May 2nd

Donald Dobeck May 4th

Larry Gilman May 6th

Brett Cooper May 7th

Julie Cummins May 8th

Heather McNamara May 16th

Fred Sontag May 17th

Eric Furman May 21st

Oscar Turcotte May 22nd

Kelly (Ryan) Fay May 24th

Mike MacInnis May 25th

***Happy Anniversary goes out to:
Pastor Marilyn Wilcox & Michael Hinkley May 16th***

Please keep our special members and friends in your prayers: June and Edie K.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON

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