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 (Creator, Christ, and Spirit One/Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). Amen.

PRAYER *of* THANKSGIVING *and* DEDICATION
Giver of perfect gifts, refine these offerings and our hearts so that they may bear fruit. Bless each of us with the joy of gift giving and help us to know the good that our generosity lends to the world in your Holy and Precious Name. Amen.

***SONG "Down by the Riverside " #673**

BENEDICTION
May the God who loves you, give you the strength and compassion to love our neighbors tangibly, to protect the vulnerable, marginalized, and threatened, to make space for the stranger, to embrace our siblings, Go, in peace, to redeem the pain of the world, through ordinary and extraordinary acts of love and hope. Amen.

SUNG "Amen"*(feel free to clap along!)*
Postlude
* Please stand if you are able.
Bold- Words in bold are said in unison.

Our worship has ended ~ Let our service begin!

Warm Birthday wishes go out to:

Sophia Burgos August 6th
Haleigh Dobeck August 20th
Mason Taylor August 21st
Amy Arpano August 29th
Samantha Wheeler Jenner August 16th
Erin Gilchrest August 20th
Guiseppe (Joe) Facendola August 27th

Happy Anniversary go out to:
Christine & Carlos Burgos August 5th
Chrissy & Donnie Dobeck August 5th
Laura & David Taylor August 28th

Lived as an Alien: Service Prayers for Pentecost Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

During the First Hymn we have a collection for our monthly meal at WHEAT Community Cafe. Thank you for your generosity!

For all joys and concerns mentioned in the Pastor's Tuesday email.
Remember in your prayers our special members: June and Edie K.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CLINTON
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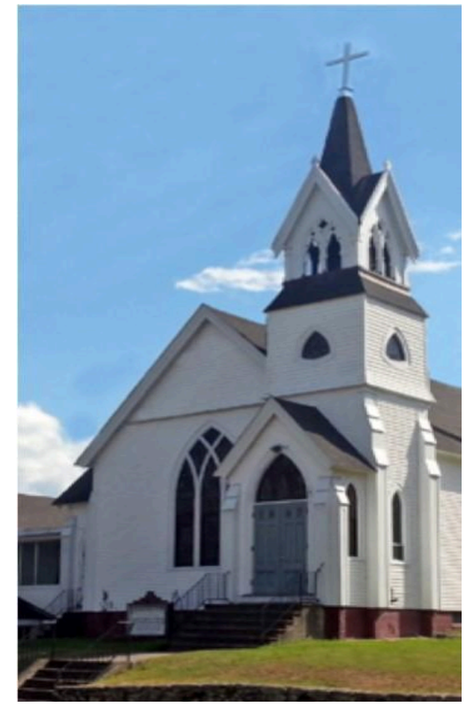
The United Church of Clinton



August 23, 2026

Lay Leader, Timothy Reilly
Musician, Kate Lyczkowski
Lay Reader, Kelly Colby

Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS
RINGING *of the* BELL/TIME *of CENTER*

***CALL *to* WORSHIP** (inspired by Psalm 105)

One: O give thanks to the Holy One; call on God's name
Many: Make known God's deeds among the peoples.
One: Sing of the Holy One's abiding love, grace, compassion, and justice
Many: Rejoice in the God's redemptive power
One: Seek the Holy One's presence, strength, and wisdom
Many: Remember God's wondrous works. Praise the Holy One!

***SONG of PRAISE *and* SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE**
"Sweet, Sweet Spirit" #261

***PRAYER *of the* DAY**
Loving and Wonderful God, you make a home for us. You provide us shelter and sanctuary. You embrace us and uphold us. You come to us and go before us. We come to you now. We search for your presence in this world, in this community, and in this gathering. Let us connect with you and be reminded of the path of full and flourishing life you offer. Let us connect with one another and be reminded that your kingdom comes in us and through us for your glory. 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

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 "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"**

1.Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

2. Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

4. Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 16: 13-20 (Common English Bible)
Peter's declaration about Jesus. Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Human One is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." 15 He said, "And what about you? Who do you say that I am? 16 Simon Peter said, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." 17 Then Jesus replied, "Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father is in heaven has shown you. 18 I tell you that you are Peter and I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it. [19] I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. Anything you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven." [20] Then he ordered the disciples not to tell anybody that he was the Christ.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION *and* NEW LIFE
Gracious and eternal God, we, like Jacob, struggle when confronted with hard things. We use avoidance to shield us from acknowledging and correcting the wrongs we have done and continue to perpetuate. We, like Joseph, fail to consider the impact we have on others and how we contribute to making life better or worse for those around us. We, like those jealous siblings, attempt to find our own way and create our own schemes rather than trusting in your love that knows no favorites and embraces us all. Help us to shift our attitude and behaviors toward accountability, reconciliation, and love. Amen.

WORDS *of* GRACE
Inheritors of the kingdom, rest assured that the Holy One's love knows no bounds. Rest assured that God will companion with you when the struggles life presents overwhelm you. We are all capable of confronting hard things and doing the hard work of restoration through recognition, repair, and reconciliation. God is with us on the journey…helping us to carry the burdens and reducing the load. Be made new in Christ Jesus.

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE 2 Samuel 20: 13, 15-17, 19-21 (Common English Bible)
Once Amasa was moved out of the road, everyone who followed Joab marched past in pursuit of Bichri's son Sheba. 15 Then Joab's men arrived and attacked Sheba at Abel of Beth-maacah. They piled up a ramp against the city, and it stood against the outer wall.[a] All of Joab's troops were hammering the wall, trying to bring it down. 16 Then a wise woman called from the city, "Listen! Listen! Tell Joab to come over here, so I can talk to him." 17 So Joab approached her, and the woman said, "Are you Joab?" "I am," he answered. "Pay close attention to the words of your female servant," she said. "I'm listening," Joab replied. 19 I am one of the peaceful and faithful in Israel, but you are trying to kill a city that is one of Israel's mothers! Why would you annihilate the Lord's inheritance?" 20 Joab answered, "I would never, ever annihilate or destroy such a thing! 21 That's not the issue. A man named Sheba, Bichri's son, who is from the Ephraim highlands, has rebelled against King David. Just hand him over, and I'll leave the city alone." The woman said to Joab, "His head will be thrown over the wall to you!"

Meditation - Timothy Reilly

Musical Meditation

INVITATION *to* GENEROSITY
Let us bring our gifts as faithful stewards so that lives may be changed, needs may be met, and the kindom of God realized. Give generously and cheerfully as an act of grateful praise.

Passing of the Plate