

**PRAYER of THANKSGIVING and DEDICATION**

Loving God, thank you for the opportunity to participate in spreading the good news through the impact of the resources we offer today. Bless these gifts, magnify them, and sanctify them for your glory. Amen.

**\*SONG “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”**

**#592**

**BENEDICTION**

As you go, spread the love and hope of Christ. Let generosity be your guide. Let love be your compass. And let peace be your destination.

**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:***

***Will Slade September 8th***

***Erin Bezanson September 10th***

***Dennis Bodak September 18th***

***Marilyn Wilcox September 23rd***

***Mars Ruperto September 10th***

***Kristen (Dietel) Jamieson September 13th***

***Deborah Bodak September 19th***

***Happy Anniversary go out to:***

***Kristen & Chris (Dietel) Jamieson September 21st***

***Kelly & Larry (Turcotte) Colby September 22nd***

*Heard Your Complaining: Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Year A was written by the Rev. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*

*During the First Hymn we have a collection for the Item Appeal. 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**

**109 Haskell Avenue Clinton, Massachusetts 01510**

Website: [clintonunitedchurch.org](http://clintonunitedchurch.org) E:Mail: [Uccclintonma@gmail.com](mailto:Uccclintonma@gmail.com)

[rev.marilyn.uccclintonma@gmail.com](mailto:rev.marilyn.uccclintonma@gmail.com)

# The United Church of Clinton



**September 20, 2026**

Minister, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musician, Kate Lyczkowski

Lay Reader, Shelly O’Toole

## Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Seventeenth 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! Tell of God’s wonderful works.

Many: Declare God’s marvelous deeds among the peoples.

One: O give thanks to the Holy One! Give glory and rejoice!

Many: Sing praises to our God! Let our hearts be glad!

One: O give thanks to the Holy One: Remember the miracles and the judgements.

Many: The Holy One has remembered us. Praise God!

\*SONG of PRAISE and SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE

“Morning Has Broken”

#53

\*PRAYER of the DAY

Sovereign and Awesome God, we gather to worship you as we begin a new church year, to know you and to be known by you. Expand our hearts to love fully. Build our courage to receive the truth. Nurture our spirits to be gracious, merciful, and kind. Transform us in your image and for your glory as we dwell in your presence. 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 “In All the Seasons Seeking God”

#607

SCRIPTURE Psalm 105: 1-6 (Common English Bible)

Give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make his deeds known to all people! 2 Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord; dwell on all his wondrous works! 3 Give praise to God’s holy name! Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the Lord! 4 Pursue the Lord and his strength; seek his face always! 5 Remember the wondrous works he has done, all his marvelous works, and the justice he declared– 6 you who are the offspring of Abraham, his servant, and the children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION and NEW LIFE (inspired by Romans 14)

Just God, we acknowledge that accountability is both a gift and a necessary step toward healing and repair. We also know that we do not sin against you alone. Forgive us for only seeking absolution from you for our benefit. Help us to reconcile with siblings, neighbors, friends, and enemies through recognition of harmful outcomes and committed actions toward repair. Amen.

WORDS of GRACE

The Holy One is faithful to forgive and extends grace and mercy lavishly. At the same time, God wants us all to be well and whole. The Holy One will strengthen us to be accountable to both God and one another as well as to do the work of restoration and repair.

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Matthew 20: 1-16 (Common English Bible)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 After he agreed with the workers to pay them a denarion,[a] he sent them into his vineyard. 3 “Then he went out around nine in the morning and saw others standing around the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He said to them, ‘You also go to the vineyard, and I’ll pay you whatever is right.’ 5 And they went. “Again around noon and then at three in the afternoon, he did the same thing. 6 Around five in the afternoon he went and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you just standing around here doing nothing all day long?’ 7 “Because nobody has hired us,’ they replied. “He responded, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ 8 “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the workers and give them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and moving on finally to first.’ 9 When those who were hired at five in the afternoon came, each one received a denarion. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But each of them also received a denarion. 11 When they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 ‘Those who were hired last worked an hour, and they received the same pay as we did even though we had to work the whole day in the hot sun.’ 13 “But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I did you no wrong. Didn’t I agree to pay you a denarion? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I want to give to this one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don’t I have the right to do what I want with what belongs to me? Or are you resentful because I’m generous?’ 16 So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”

Meditation - Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musical Meditation

INVITATION to GENEROSITY

Let us give good gifts for the needs of our community with generous and loving hearts.

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









