

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING and DEDICATION

Holy One, we present these offerings to you in hope and love. May they be a gift in our community and the world. May they spread hope and love. And, may they witness to your abundant and generous creation. Amen.

*Communion (found in insert)

*SONG “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

#433

BENEDICTION

Trust in God in the wilderness. Hope in God through the wilderness. Follow God beyond the wilderness. With the assurance that God makes the ground holy, hears the cries of the people, and comes near to the suffering, join the work of deliverance, believe in the possibility of a just world, and work toward its realization. Go, in peace and determination, to serve and love God and all creation.

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

Kristen (Dietel) Jamieson September 13th

Deborah Bodak September 19th

Mars Ruperto September 10th

Dennis Bodak September 18th

Marilyn Wilcox September 23rd

Happy Anniversary go out to:

Kristen & Chris (Dietel) Jamieson September 21st

Kelly & Larry (Turcotte) Colby September 22nd

Beyond the Wilderness: 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. Communion Service “In Praise of Earth” is by Molly Phinney Baskette. From the book “Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living” Edited by Mary Luti.

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



September 6, 2026

Minister, Rev. Marilyn Wilcox
Musician, Kate Lyczkowski
Lay Reader, Alana Limber

Ministers, The People of God

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING of the BELL/TIME of CENTER

*CALL to WORSHIP

One: O give thanks to the Holy One, the I Am Who I Am, who calls us together and makes their name known.

Many: We glory in God’s holy name! Let the hearts that seek the Holy One rejoice and testify!

One: O give thanks to the Holy One, God of our ancestors, who lives and reigns with all generations.

Many: Sing praises to our God. Remember their wonderful works, saving acts, and redemptive deeds.

One: O give thanks to the Holy One, Mighty and Just God, who lends strength in the struggle and leads in righteousness.

Many: Seek the presence of the Holy One. Praise God!

*SONG of PRAISE and SUPPORTING HUMAN JUSTICE

“Love Divine, All Love Excelling”

#517

*PRAYER of the DAY

Sovereign God, we delight in your presence. Your words bring joy, peace, and strength. You fill us with your Spirit and shape us in truth. Take us beyond the wilderness of our current condition. Remind us of who you are and who we are in you. Receive our praise, curiosity, our doubts, our fears. With thanksgiving, we come to you just as we are. In hope, we bring our dreams for a better world and better lives. In awe, we recount what you have already done. In faith, we invite you to equip us as your partners in your kindom. Set a fire for your way and your will within us as we minister in your name. 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 “Jesu, Jesu”

#600

SCRIPTURE Psalm 149 (Common English Bible)

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing God’s praise in the assembly of the faithful! 2 Let Israel celebrate its maker; let Zion’s children rejoice in their king! 3 Let them praise God’s name with dance; let them sing God’s praise with the drum and lyre! 4 Because the Lord is pleased with his people, God will beautify the poor with saving help. 5 Let the faithful celebrate with glory; let them shout for joy on their beds.[a] 6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, 7 to get revenge against the nations and punishment on the peoples, 8 binding their rulers in chains and their officials in iron shackles, 9 achieving the justice written against them. That will be an honor for all God’s faithful people. Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION and NEW LIFE

God of peace, you created this world to be a place of abundance and goodness. You have called us to justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. In the realness of time, you sent Jesus to show us the way of life where the humble are exalted, where the poor are fed, dignity is shared by all, and all people live in peace. We come before you in our own time lamenting the brokenness of our world and our role in allowing it to be so.

(Silent prayer)

Leader: When we become the center of our world and fail to see those who struggle,

People: Forgive us.

Pastor: When we seek peace in our homes, communities, and nation at the expense of others,

People: Forgive us.

Pastor: When our eyes become so fixed on priorities of our own making, that we fail to look for Jesus in the imperiled, the persecuted, the marginalized, the stranger, and the imprisoned,

People: Forgive us.

Pastor: When we praise God with our lips yet fail to reach out to others with acts of loving and caring justice, and mercy.

People: Forgive us. Amen. (From a Peace Vigil - First Congregational Church, UCC Stockbridge, MA)

WORDS of GRACE

God is merciful and just, slow in anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Know this, we are forgiven and we may again now walk in the way of peace, hope and love. Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God! (From a Peace Vigil -First Congregational Church, UCC Stockbridge, MA)

Prayer Concerns and Joys Lifted Up

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE Romans 13: 8-12 (Common English Bible, adapted)

Don’t be in debt to anyone, except for the obligation to love each other. Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law. 9 The commandments are all summed up in one word: You must love your neighbor as yourself.[b] 10 Love doesn’t do anything wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is what fulfills the Law. The Day is near 11 As you do all this, you know what time it is. The hour has already come for you to wake up from your sleep. Now our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. 12 The night is almost over, and the day is near. So let’s get rid of the actions that belong to the darkness and put on the weapons of light.

Meditation - Rev. Marilyn Wilcox

Musical Meditation

INVITATION to GENEROSITY

As a spiritual discipline, generosity demonstrates our commitment to the kindom of God in a tangible way. When we share our resources, we proclaim our trust in God’s abundant provision, our concern for the condition of our neighbors, and our responsibility for the maintenance and care of our community. Let us give generously to the good work of God’s church.

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)

***COMMUNION**

***Communion Song “In Remembrance of Me”**

#403

Invitation (Pastor Marilyn reads)

To paraphrase Mary Oliver, you do not have to be good to receive the gift of this meal. You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves. We are animals who need care and feeding. To acknowledge our animal natures and needs is to acknowledge the dignity and worth of every created thing.

To take this meal is to take our proper place in the rhythms of our Earth, to acknowledge our right-sized place in the ecosystem. To eat this food is to acknowledge our belonging in the great unrolling dance of Creation from the dawn of the universe until its ending. Come, then, everyone, and be where you belong.

(In Unison) Praise and Thanks: God, through the wonder of photosynthesis, you turn sunlight and soil into fruit of the vine and grain of the field. Add yeast for rising, salt for flavor, water for life, then knead, bake, and ferment until these elements become food for body and spirit. God, you are in all things, and therefore in us. God, we are in all things, atoms sprung from stardust, repurposed for a moment in a too-short human lifespan, then repurposed again. We acknowledge the holiness of this bread and cup, the holiness of you and us and everything in this meal.

Pastor: Let us pray. Now, God, we remember on the last night of life, Jesus went back to the most basic need all living things share - to eat. He took a loaf, Brother Bread, and when he had thanked you for it, he shared it among all those gathered, saying, Take this and eat. This is for you. Good bread for healing and joy. Likewise after supper, he took a cup, Sister Wine, a symbol of life and joy, and the wheel of fate. When he had thanked you for it, he said to his disciples, Take this and drink: this cup seals a new covenant. Lifeblood for healing and joy. In eating and drinking, we acknowledge with thanks our covenant with all created things to heal and tend and foster growth, and not to deplete or destroy.

Sharing of Meal

Thanksgiving Prayer for Communion (In Unison)

Thank you, thank you, thank you, God, for making grape and wheat and sun and rain and us ourselves. Thank you for the gift of life! May we tend that life, your life, in all living things and the Earth itself. Amen.

******Please go back to final hymn “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” #433 on the back page of bulletin******

