

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2019

8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

We are not loved because we are precious, but we are precious because we are loved.
– Henri Nouwen

I do not at all understand the mystery of grace--only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us. – Anne Lamott

**No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey,
you're welcome in this
United Church of Christ congregation...** 

*Those who are able, please stand.
Underlined items 8:30 a.m. worship.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Pastoral Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

As Rain from the Clouds

Wayne Wold

*Call to Worship

One: Come to the water, all you who thirst; come be refreshed at the river of life.

All: We come to the water, we who are weary; we come to rest in the quiet pools of God's love.

One: Come to the water, all you who long for justice; come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

All: We gather here where God is among us, washing away the dust and grime of our lives, and pouring out God's Spirit on all who thirst.

*Opening Hymn

Shall We Gather at the River

#597 Black

*Dedication of Water

One: We gather water from many places: from oceans and rivers, lakes and streams. From the muddy Mississippi to the churning Atlantic. From nearby Erie to the fjords of Sweden.

All: We draw from many wells, yet all are refreshing, each rivulet cleansing, each capable of nurturing and sustaining life.

One: We bring our water into communion, to share with one another, just as we pool the many insights that inform our own singular experience. A droplet of water alone has no color. It remains clear and translucent, almost invisible.

All: But in combination, the many drops together create a brightly varied rainbow, unseen realities made real and present for all to witness.

One: Today we bring our water and pour it into a common bowl. Though our experiences have differed, these waters mingle, signifying our common humanity.

All: Today we come to share in this sacred community where rivers of tears may be shed, where dry souls are watered, where joy bubbles, where our cups overflow.

Gathering the Water

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle, tell where your water was gathered if you would like, pour your water into the bowl, drop the empty vial in the basket, then return to your seat via the side aisle.

Blessing the Water

Choir Anthem

Like a River Glorious
Chancel Choir

David Schwoebel

Children's Message

Preschool-1st Kathy Bloesinger and Pam & Jerry Wolf, Bi-Weekly, **Room 104**

2nd-6th Debbie & Tom Planisek, **Rooms 201/203**

7th-8th Janine Jenkins, **Room 205**

9th-12th Judy Van Zante/Judy Hammer **Room 206**

Preschool-6th meet their teachers in the rear of the Sanctuary following the Children's Message and will remain in class until picked up by a parent. 7th-12th youth meet in the lobby for Breakfast Bunch.

Blessing Song

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#431

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever;

Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Epistle Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

NT page 196
Large print page 253

Reader: God is still speaking,

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-10

NT page 73
Large print page 95

Reader: God is still speaking,

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Vicki McGaw

Hymn of Response

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

#459 Black

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

Naming of those in need of Prayer

Silent Prayer, Prayers of the People

Prayer of our Savior (in unison)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Offering

(Please complete a purple "My Second Offering" card to record the ways you share your time, talent and treasure, then put it in the offering plate. Be sure to participate in the Ritual of Friendship using the pad in your pew, then check in on Facebook using your silenced cell phone.)

Offertory

All Creatures of Our God and King

Diane Bish

*Doxology (tune 46)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

**Generous God, when we could not find our way, you came searching for us.
So may our gifts be used to bring hope to those cast aside by the world, peace
to those whose lives are troubled, and grace to all who are alone. This we
pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30 am only)

WE GO OUT WITH GOD'S WORD

*Closing Hymn

Amazing Grace

#547 Black

*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Toccata in F Major

Dieterich Buxtehude

Please remain seated and enjoy the Postlude.



COME TO THE TABLE: WELCOME TRAINING

These last few weeks, we have talked about Coming to the Table – of grace, of love, of peace, of joy. Now it's time to get practical. Pastor Vicki and the Welcome Corps invite you to join them **after 10:30 worship on September 22nd** to enjoy a light lunch and to embrace extravagant welcome right here at MHCUCC. Starting at noon and ending by 1, we'll refresh our imaginations and skills in how to ensure all who come through our doors know the generous love and hospitality of God through us. We look forward to seeing you at the table!