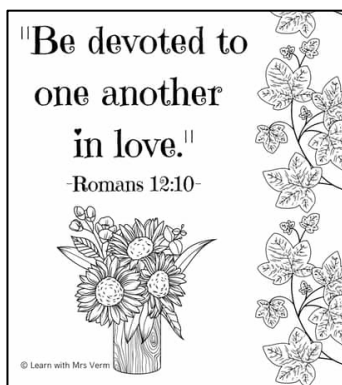




**The "Red Door" Church**  
**First United Presbyterian Church**  
381 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820

[www.reddoorchurch.info](http://www.reddoorchurch.info)

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**10 AM - Sunday, August 30, 2026**

Thais Burkhalter, Liturgist  
Jean Giuda, Director of Music/Musician  
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Walton-Leavitt, Pastor

## **THE LITURGY**

Order of Worship

**\* - You are invited to stand.**

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### **SENTENCES OF MEDITATION**

Paul did not give us a to-do list by which we can measure our progress in achieving holiness. Paul gave us an ecosystem of love. ~Melissa Earley

**PRELUDE** (G81)

*Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*

*arr Brian Lockard*

## **GATHERING**

**WELCOME**, everyone, to this time of worship. We are delighted to have you with us this morning! We are here to praise God and to enjoy one another's fellowship as we serve both God and our neighbor.

**In-person worship** is in the Sanctuary. Face masks available.

**OR, join us online or by phone** using Google Meet.

Every Sunday -- Same Link: [meet.google.com/viu-hpxa-mjq](https://meet.google.com/viu-hpxa-mjq)

By Phone: +1 301-857-2390 // PIN: 931 769 968#

Please note: All virtual attendees (by phone or online) will be muted once service begins.

For Joys & Concerns: Enter in CHAT – OR unmute to share during Prayers of the People.

**As always -- all are welcome. Invite a friend to join us!**

**See Calendar at end of the worship portion of this bulletin.**

|                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Let us now prepare our hearts for worship by listening to the Introit.</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**INTROIT** (G626)

*As the Deer/Fairest Lord Jesus*

*Martin Nystrom*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive reading from Exodus 3:15, Ps. 105:3, 45b))

Liturgist

Leader: The God of our ancestors calls us to worship.

**People: Praise the Lord!**

Leader: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**People: Let us worship God!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Liturgist

Let us pray.

Almighty God,  
 in the self-giving love of Christ you have revealed the path of salvation;  
 give us courage to deny our selfish desire and bear the cross of discipleship,  
 that we may live as those who have no fear of death  
 and receive the joy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord  
 And let all the people say: **Amen.**

|                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>All are invited to sing Hymn No. 300 – <i>We Are One in the Spirit</i></b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                           |                                        |                 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>* GTG Hymn No. 300</b> | <b><i>We Are One in the Spirit</i></b> | <i>Scholtes</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|

**We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;  
 we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
 and we pray that our unity will one day be restored:**

*Refrain:* **And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
 yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
 we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;  
 and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *Refrain***

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
 we will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
 and we'll guard human dignity and save each human pride: *Refrain***

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
 and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
 and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one: *Refrain***

## **WORD**

|                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Please join me in reading our Prayer of Illumination. [PAUSE] <i>Let us pray...</i></b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** *(in unison)* Liturgist

**By the power of your Spirit, O Lord, make your Word become a joy to us  
 and the delight of our hearts. Amen.**

**CONVERSATION with ALL GOD's CHILDREN**

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 16:21-28 *(page 18/NT in pew Bibles)* Liturgist

|                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>This is the Word of the Lord. [PAUSE] <u>ALL:</u> Thanks be to God.</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION** based Romans 12:9-21 *(page 162/NT in pew Bibles)*

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Adapted from Romans 12:9, 14, 19-21 in The Voice*

**Leader:** Love others well, and don't hide behind a mask. Love authentically.

**People:** **We also will despise evil and pursue what is good  
 as if our lives depend on it.**

Leader: If people mistreat or malign you, bless them.

Always speak blessings, not curses. Do not seek revenge; instead allow God's wrath to make sure justice is served. Turn it over to God...

**People: If an enemy is hungry, we will give them something to eat.**

**If thirsty, something to drink. We will not let evil get the best of us; instead, we will overpower evil with good.**

\* GTG No. 727

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

*Gillard*

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?**

**Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.**

**We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;**

**I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.**

**I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you,**

**I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through**

**When we sing to God in heaven, we will find such harmony,**

**born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**Expecting Birth:** Paul Rosa's friends are expecting: Claudia (*his nurse*); Sierra Rain Boyce (Photography Teacher); Jenna Groh (Art Teacher)

**Health & wholeness:** Rebecca L; Madeline B; Dick; Evelyn (*Ruth's relative*); Kyden (*Bobbie's relative*); Candace (*Thais/Jan's friend*); Peggy (*Bev's relative*); Enid C (*former SC, lay preacher*); Janet (*Cynthia's friend*); Sharon (*John B's relative*); Ralph (*Patty W's relative*); Antoinette (*Barb's friend*); Stuart/Allen (*Brandie's relatives*); Emma (*Jan's friend*); Alfred/ Michael/Bill & son-Billie (*Paul R's friend/ relatives*); Shirley & Bob G and Grace (*Goble's grandchild*)

**Grieving:** All those missing loved ones.

**Homebound/Rehab/Managed Care:** Judy C (*and Dick, her primary caregiver*)

**Traveling mercies** for all those on the move this season – near and far.

**In Presbytery:** First Presbyterian Church Oneonta, Pastor Mark Montfort, and Session

**In our community and country:** Military personnel serving in USA and abroad.

Hate Speech: Change hearts of those who promote hate -- and comfort victims of it.

Violence in our country: Pray for victims, perpetrators – and solutions.

**In the World:** Prayers for *shalom* – peace, justice, and healing in the world.

Lives torn apart by hostilities: Middle East, Sudan, Ukraine, and all places in conflict.  
Climate change concerns and disasters, past and pending... Nepal, Columbia, Indonesia  
World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle: Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*debts*) (GTG page 35)

*[A time of silence may follow each intercession.]*

Let us pray ...

Merciful God, hear our prayers this day... for the church of Jesus Christ.

Bless the church, deliver it from evil, and make it holy in every way,  
that all people may see the light of your salvation  
through the witness of your faithful servants.

Merciful God, hear our prayers this day...for the world and for its leaders.

Uphold leaders of national and local governments in our country and around the world.

Give them sound judgment and merciful hearts,  
and lead them to do what is right in upholding the common good.

Merciful God, hear our prayers... for the good earth.

Let Earth be a gentle home for us.

Subdue the violence of storm and earthquake,  
and heal the destruction of flood and drought, that life may flourish  
and every creature rejoice in the goodness of creation.

Merciful God, hear our prayers... for children.

Bless children and those who care for them. Defend them.

Enable them to thrive in mind and body and to grow in wisdom and strength.

Give them parents and guardians who are faithful in their duty  
to provide for their needs and guard them from danger.

Merciful God, hear our prayers... for the sick and those in distress.

Heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit,  
and uphold those who are able to support them in their need.

These prayers we offer by the power of your Holy Spirit  
through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together, saying:

**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. Amen.**



\* **GLORY TO GOD** (GTG No. 582, vs. 1)

*Vasile*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS**

The apostle Paul encourages us: Do not lag in zeal. Be ardent in spirit.  
In loving service to our loving Lord,  
we now return to God a portion of the bounty God has provided.

**SPECIAL MUSIC** (G69)*Here I Am, Lord**Daniel Schutte*Tithe and Offering Options:

Sanctuary: Offering plates (and envelopes) are near the exit doors.

- U.S. Post to FUPC at 2 Walling Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820
- QR Code (*Quick Response Code*): This is **our unique QR code** →
- Vanco Mobile Faith app can be downloaded on your Smartphone.  
Type in "Oneonta" to find our church.
- Computer: **New web address for donation** is the following Vanco link – which can also be found on our website: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZD01>
- Bill Pay: Use your bank's online bill pay system.
- Electronic funds transfer: Set up from your savings or checking account.

**PRAYER of DEDICATION of our GIFTS**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, receive these gifts that we offer with grateful hearts  
and use us for your ministry in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
And let all the people say: **Amen.**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: All are invited to exchange signs of Christ's peace and reconciling love.

**\* GTG Hymn No. 372***O for a World**Winter/Glaser*

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,  
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.  
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

**SENDING****\* BLESSING AND CHARGE**

The blessing of God be with you -- the love of Jesus fill you --  
and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forevermore.

Hold fast to what is good. Repay no one evil for evil.  
Rejoice in hope. Be patient in suffering. Persevere in prayer.

**POSTLUDE***Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus**Cindy Berry***TODAY**

Lectionary: Ex 3:1-15; Ps 105:1-6,23-26,45b; 26:1-8; Jer 15:15-21; Rom 12:9-21; Mat 16:21-28

**10 AM Morning Worship.**

**11:00 AM – Hospitality Time** in social hall. (*weekly*)

**1:00 to 3:00 PM - Swart-Wilcox House Summer Sunday Series**, Wilcox Ave, Oneonta.  
Free. Lawn chairs recommended. Focus: *Important Oneonta Events in the Last 50 Years* by Mark Simonson

**THIS WEEK**

**Monday – 1:00 PM – RAWtools Planning team**  
meets in Room 14.

**Tuesday - 1:00 PM – Session** in Room 14.

**Thursdays - 10 AM – CCAL Class** ‘Learn to Play Pinochle’ with Paul Griswold / Room 14

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**SUNDAYS 10:00 AM – FUPC**

10:00 AM – ORPC

11:00 AM – Quakers

**TUESDAYS 7:00 PM – AA Big Book**

**FRIDAYS 6:30 PM AA (men's group)**

|                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Lectionary: Ex 12:1-14; Ps 149; 119:33-40; Ezek 33:7-11; Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

**10 AM Combined Morning Worship in our sanctuary** with First Pres Church led  
by Pastor Walton-Leavitt. Liturgist: Mark Montfort

**Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – Office Closed** in observance of Labor Day.

**Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**

**10:30 AM – CCAL Class** ‘Rather Be Reading’ with Pat Norton-White in Blue Room.

**6:00 PM – Choir** begins rehearsals in Music Room. All are welcome to lift a joyful noise!

**Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Presbytery Assembly at our church.** Volunteers needed to help set-up – morning refreshments – Taco Bar lunch prep, serving, clean-up. For more info: Brandie Conner

**Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00 AM to 1:00 PM – RAWtools Buffalo, a “guns to garden tools” event, at our church!** Mark Stradley, school counselor, will do a presentation and blacksmith demonstration. To address the pain of gun violence, he destroys donated firearms and turns them into garden tools and other artistic pieces. For more info, contact Pastor Walton-Leavitt or go to <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=7bFPu0v-rv4>

**Upper Room Devotionals** (*September/October*) are available on small table in front of the sanctuary and outside the church offices. Many find them to be a blessing.

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| Please notify Pastor Walton-Leavitt at 607-242-8184 (cell) or <a href="mailto:cynuff@aya.yale.edu">cynuff@aya.yale.edu</a><br>OR Carol Sprague, Office Administrator at 607-432-7520 or <a href="mailto:reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com">reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com</a><br>in case of illness or need of pastoral care. |
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