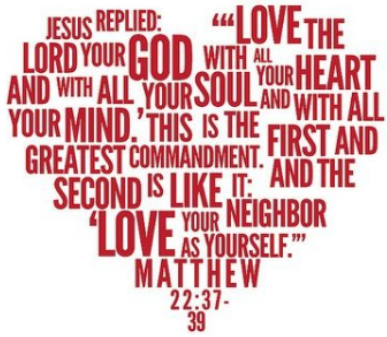




First United Presbyterian Church

381 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820

www.reddoorchurch.info

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

10 AM - Sunday, October 25, 2026

Jan Andrews, 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.*

OneLicense.net #A-724947

All rights reserved.

SENTENCES OF MEDITATION

"Love is an act of will – namely both an intention and an action.

Will also implies choice. We do not have to love. We choose to love."

~M. Scott Peck

PRELUDE

More Love, More Power

J. Del Hierro/arr T. Howard

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-mjg

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.

Let us now prepare our hearts for worship by listening to the Introit.

INTROIT (G729)

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

African American spiritual

* **CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsive reading from Psalm 90:1-6)

Liturgist

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

People: In you, we come home -- to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved.

Leader: Before the mountains were born - before you delivered the whole world, from everlasting past to everlasting future -- you are God.

People: In you, we are home -- we dream, we flourish, we fade, we rejoice.
We dwell in you.

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Call to Confession

Let us speak the truth about ourselves to our neighbors and to God,
acknowledging what we have done -- and what we have left undone.

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray.

Your holiness, O God, commands that we confess:

We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves
nor honored ourselves as your beloved creation.

We have judged unjustly -- regarded others ungenerously --
profited at the losses of those near and distant -- borne grudges --
desired vengeance -- and kept silence in the face of wrongdoing.

We long to live in accord with your desire
that your way of compassion, kindness, and honesty
will govern our hearts and minds, turning us toward lives of peace.

Forgive us and lead us. And let all the people say: **Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Brothers and sisters, the Holy One who promises forgiveness
to those who seek the good -- hears your confession.

As the crucified and risen child of God, your Redeemer fully knows your sorrow
and your desire for reconciled relationships.

You are forgiven. In that promise is the power to love your neighbors and yourselves
as beloved of God who created all that exists.

All are invited to sing Hymn No. 611 – <i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i> – verses 1 & 3

* **GTG No. 611** (vs. 1 & 3) ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*** *van Dyke/Beethoven*

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.**

WORD

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

Liturgist

**Spirit of life, God of love -- open our hearts and enter in -- that
hearing your word of love -- we may become your love for others. Amen.**

CONVERSATION with ALL GOD's CHILDREN

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 (*page 106/OT in Bibles*) Liturgist

This is the Word of the Lord. [PAUSE] ALL: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION based Matthew 22:34-46 (*page 25/NT in pew Bibles*)

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *from the PCUSA "A Brief Statement of Faith"*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,

sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor

and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ,

the Church.

* **GTG No. 316**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

Westendorf/Chapin

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;

brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ God's holy Son.

As members of each body joined, in Him we are made one.

Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.

Be God's the glory that we seek; be His our only peace.

Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,

that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.

Love can exclude no race or creed if honored by God's name;

our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

THANKSGIVING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Joys from Yesterday: Elders Thais Burkhalter, Brandie Conner, Fran Puffer, and Otto

Rothermel completed Communion Training offered by Presbytery yesterday.

And Rev. Ivan Ruiz-Swartz was installed as Rector of St. James Episcopal Church, Oneonta

Health & wholeness: Sam Hager (*Kathy's brother*); Jim Mullaney; Abby (*Thais' mom*);

Eleanor; Madeline B; Dick C.; Evelyn (*Ruth's relative*); Kyden (*Bobbie's relative*);

Candace/ Brenda (*Thais/Jan's friends*); Peggy (*Bev's relative*); Enid C (*lay preacher*);

Janet S (*Cynthia's friend*); Sharon (*John B's relative*); Ralph V (*Patty W's relative*);

Antoinette (*Barb's friend*); Stuart/Allen (*Brandie's relatives*); Emma (*Jan's friend*);

Michael/Bill & son-Billie (*Paul R's relatives*); Shirley & Bob G and Grace (*Goble's relative*)

Grieving: family and friends of Rev. Douglas Hatch and 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: Walton United PC; Pastor Paul Huh 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...
World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle: The Caribbean

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

[A time of silence may follow each intercession.]

Let us pray ...

Almighty God, in a world aching to be made new,
we cry out with those who suffer pain emotionally and physically.
We cry out with those suffering from illness and disease,
at whom the world turns a callous glance.
We cry out with those stinging from the sins of discrimination.
We cry out with those seeking justice, equality, and peace --
peace and love, at all times, in all ways.

In a world stretching toward wholeness,
we celebrate with those whose lives bear the fruit of your Spirit
and seek to share in your call to truly love one another.
We celebrate with those whose efforts are making the world new.
Make us a world that welcomes all – where all are fed materially and spiritually.
Make us a people that practices mutuality -- generosity -- and justice.
And may we be found to be witnesses, when Jesus returns,
to the truth of who we were created to be –
people who belong to each other and people who belong to you, O God.

We come as disciples of your Son Jesus in whose name we are bold to pray, 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.**

MISSION EMPHASIS: Oneonta Community Thanksgiving Dinner

1,000 meals will be prepared for dine-in, take-out, or delivery. See flyer about donating your time and talents to feed our neighbors – or how to enjoy a meal yourself.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

With thanksgiving for the bounty of this earth –
 the work we have been given to do to promote God's peace –
 the joy of sharing so that others may also live --
 we gather our gifts at this time -- loving our neighbors as ourselves.

ANTHEM*Make Us One**Twilia Paris*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.

Generous and life-giving God, you made your people in your image,
 sent your Son to be the face of your healing love in our midst,
 and promised through the Holy Spirit your guidance and power.

We thank you for the ways in which we learn to be your peacemakers –
 loving all your children as they are – or as they may become.

We ask your blessing on these offerings
 that through them the needs of this world can be met.

In Jesus' name we pray. 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 No. 717***For the Life That You Have Given**Daw Jr*

**For the life that you have given, for the love in Christ made known,
 with these fruits of time and labor, with these gifts that are your own:
 Here we offer, Lord, our praises; heart and mind and strength we bring;
 give us grace to love and serve you, living what we pray and sing.**

SENDING* **BLESSING AND CHARGE**

Blessed are you, O sisters and brothers, for you shall be holy,
 as the Lord your God is holy.

Living in peace -- by trusting in the promises of God.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart -- and with all your soul --
and with all your mind... and your neighbor as yourself.

POSTLUDE (G697)

Take My Life, Let it Be

H. A. Malan/arr C. Curry

TODAY

Lectionary: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Ps 90:1-6,13-17; 1; 1 Thess 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

10 AM Morning Worship.

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

11:15 AM – Church School in classrooms (*weekly*)

Call to Meeting: The Session of the First United Presbyterian Church, Oneonta, New York hereby calls a special meeting of the congregation and corporation at 11:05 AM TODAY in the sanctuary to elect Elders to serve on Session beginning in January 2027 and discuss tithing the Couse bequest received in 2021 (i.e. giving 10% mission).

THIS WEEK

Monday - 7:00 to 8:00 PM - **Come Sing With Us for the Holidays** with City of the Hills Chorus at Atonement Lutheran, 1 Center St, Oneonta. Learn 3 easy holiday songs to sing at Southside Mall on 12/5. For details, call Jen at 607-643-6793.

Tuesday - 1:00 PM – **Chain Gang** in social hall.

6:00 PM – FUP Book Club to gather at church to discuss The Lion Women of Tehran by Marian Kamali. Contact Rebecca LaBarr. All are welcome.

Wednesday – **Deadline for Remembrances** to list a relation or dear friend in the bulletin, contact Carol in the church office at 607-432-7520 or reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com

Saturday - **Halloween**: Be safe if celebrating the holiday!

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS 10:00 AM – FUPC

10:00 AM – ORPC

11:00 AM – Quakers

TUESDAYS 7:00 PM – AA Big Book

WEDNESDAYS 5:45 PM – Bells

6:00 PM – Choir

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1st – All Saints' Day (Remembrance Sunday)

Lectionary: Josh 3:7-17; Ps 107:1-7,33-37; 43; Mic 3:5-12; 1 Thess 2:9-13; Matt 23:1-12

All Saints' Day: Revelations 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

2:00 AM - Daylight Savings Time ends... ("*Fall back*" one hour)

10 AM Morning Worship including Remembrances of loved ones. Liturgist: Fran P

Friday, November 6th

Deadline to order Wreaths (\$35) & Swags (\$30) for Oneonta Dollars for Scholars.

To order or for more info - call or text Barb Rothermel at 607-434-2410. Checks made payable to *Oneonta Dollars for Scholars* may be left at the church office or mailed to: Barb Rothermel, P.O. Box 103, Milford, NY 13807

Please notify Pastor Walton-Leavitt at 607-242-8184 (cell) or cynuff@aya.yale.edu
OR Carol Sprague, Office Administrator at 607-432-7520 or reddoorchurch@stny.rr.com
in case of illness or need of pastoral care.