



First United Presbyterian Church
381 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820

www.reddoorchurch.info

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
10 AM - Sunday, September 20, 2026

Emma Kirsch, Liturgist
Jean Giuda, Director of Music/Musician
Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Walton-Leavitt, Pastor

THE LITURGY

Order of Worship

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

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SENTENCES OF MEDITATION

"Grace shapes itself to each person. We make our choices -- some of which are good for us, some bad -- and then grace shapes the results."

- Deepak Chopra in *How to Know God* (Harmony Books, 2000)

PRELUDE

(G451)

*Oh, That Will be Glory/
Open My Eyes That I Might See*

*Charles H Gabriel
Clara H Scott*

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

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

Here is Love

R Lowry/W Edwards

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive reading from Ps. 105:1-6*)

Liturgist

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord! The Lord hears the cries of the people.

People: Give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: The works of the Lord are great. Remember what God has done.

People: Give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: God has done miracles and always remembers God's covenant.

People: Give thanks to the Lord. Glory and praise is due to the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

Liturgist

Let us pray.
 Generous God, you come to us again and again,
 no matter how late it is in the day -- or in our lives.
 Calling to us -- gathering us in -- you give us your good work to do --
 daily bread -- and boundless grace.
 Increase in us a generous spirit so that we may do your work with joy
 alongside others whom you also love.
 We celebrate your salvation not only in our lives --
 but also in the lives of other people --
 even those we had not imagined would be included in your kingdom.
 Align us with your ways --
 and help us receive your gift of justice and mercy as good news.
 In Jesus Christ we pray. And let all the people say: **Amen.**

All are invited to sing Hymn No. 385 – *All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

* GTG No. 385 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* Kethe/Bourgeois

**All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
 him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make;
 we are his folk; he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise; approach with joy his courts unto;
 praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good; his mercy is forever sure;
 his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.**

WORD

Please join me in reading our Prayer of Illumination. [PAUSE] *Let us pray...*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *(in unison)*

Liturgist

**O God who knows our every need before we can even ask –
 you provide all our needs and some of our wants. You bless us all.
 Make us truly thankful and empower us to bless others
 from the gifts you have given us -- for the glory of your name. Amen.**

CONVERSATION with ALL GOD's CHILDREN

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11 *(page 861/OT in pew Bibles)* Liturgist

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

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION based Matthew 20:1-16 *(page 21/NT in pew Bibles)*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(in unison)*

from Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

**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.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, Come, Lord Jesus!**

*** GTG No. 436 *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* *Moment/Paris***

**God of compassion, in mercy befriend us,
giver of grace for our needs all-availing.
Wisdom and strength for each day ever send us,
patience untiring and courage unfailing.
Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
stilled our rude hearts with your word of consoling.
Wrap now your peace, like a mantle, around us,
guarding our thoughts and our passions controlling.
How shall we stray, with your hand to direct us,
you who the stars in their courses are guiding?
What shall we fear, with your power to protect us,
we who walk forth in your greatness confiding?**

THANKSGIVING

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Expecting Birth: Paul Rosa's friend: Sierra Rain Boyce (*Photography Teacher*)

Health & wholeness: Eleanor; Madeline B; Evelyn (*Ruth's relative*); Kyden (*Bobbie's relative*); Candace (*Thais/Jan's friend*); Peggy (*Bev's relative*); Enid C (*former SC, lay preacher*); Janet S (*Cynthia's friend*); Sharon (*John B'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 relative*)

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: Otego PC, Pastor Doug Horne and the 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: Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Sudan and South Sudan, Ukraine, and places in conflict.

Climate change concerns and disasters, past and pending...

World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle: Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

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

[A time of silence may follow each intercession.]

Let us pray.

God of unending mercy and steadfast love,
we are grateful that you are slow to anger,
for there is much in this world that is wrong -- and set against your purposes.

Overcome our many injustices -- with your justice;
overtake our lust for revenge -- with your great mercy.

We pray for nations locked in enmity --
to be set free from old patterns -- and to embrace a new way of relating.

We pray for people who wield economic power
to take notice of those whom you notice
and to have compassion for those who are vulnerable.

We pray for day laborers -- the unemployed -- and the homeless.
Inspire us who have enough to share what we have --
not in measured and resentful amounts --
but gladly, abundantly -- so basic needs do not go unattended.

Gather up the first and the last -- the least and the greatest --
in the common work of your kingdom,
until there is no more first or last at all -- for all are one in your name.

Help us all to see not only your grace at work in the world,
but also your humor at work among us,
the holy laughter that heals us -- and helps us see ourselves rightly.

We thank you for the privilege of believing in Christ --
of living in Christ -- and of living for Christ.
In all things, at all times -- we give thanks to you -- who never lets us go;
through Jesus Christ our Savior in whose name we are bold to pray:

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, 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: World Communion Offering (*see insert and video*)

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/1215798957?&login=true>

Please mark all donations with *World Communion Offering* on the memo line. Checks may be made payable to *First United Presbyterian*. To be dedicated on Sunday, October 4th.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Whether we have much or only a little –
we can share our daily bread so that all will be fed.
As we have received -- so now we give in the vineyard of the Lord.

ANTHEM (G391)

This is the Day

Les Garrett

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.

God of the harvest, we are privileged to be counted among those whom
you have called and graced with your work to do.

We are blessed to receive more than we will ever earn.

Accept, we pray, our thanksgivings and offerings,

and do what you choose with what already belongs to you.

In Christ's 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. 649** (vs. 1-4) ***Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound***

John Newton

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
 He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

SENDING

*** BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May the generous grace of Christ attend you –
 the astounding love of God find you,
 and the surprising movement of the Holy Spirit guide you,
 everywhere and always.

Go out this day practicing God's strange generosity toward others--
 sharing the good news with them –
 and rejoicing in their well-being -- that you, too, may be well.

POSTLUDE (G629)

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

arr Phillip Kevern

TODAY

Lectionary: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45; 145:1-8; Jonah 3:10-4:11;
 Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 30:1-16

10 AM Morning Worship.

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

THIS WEEK

Thursday – 10:00 AM – CCAL Class 'Learn to
 Play Pinochle' with Jacquie in Room 14.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS 10:00 AM – FUPC

10:00 AM – ORPC

11:00 AM – Quakers

TUESDAYS 7:00 PM – AA Big Book

WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM – Choir

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16; 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32;
 Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

10 AM Morning Worship (T-Shirt Sunday) Commission the Church School.

All are encouraged to wear a T-shirt with a message. Liturgist: Jan Andrews

11:00 AM – Ice Cream Social Time in social hall.

Tuesday, September 29th

1:00 PM – Chain Gang gathers in social hall.

Wednesdays, September 30th – October 28th

12 noon on Zoom - Protecting Children from Gun Violence Fall Action Circle.

For questions or suggestions, contact gvp@presbypeacefellowship.org

If interested, go to <https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence-prevention#protecting-children-action-circles>

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.