

**Welcome to Church of Christ - August 16, 2026**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
*We are honored to worship God with you today!*

**Welcome**

*Please put away your phones so that we may be truly present. Thank you!*

**Prelude**      *Morning Has Broken* - arr. L Shackley

**Call to Worship**

~Heather Thomson

Leader: May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and may God's face shine upon us.

**People: That your way, Lord, may be known upon earth,  
your liberating love known among all nations.**

Leader: Let the people praise you, O God;  
let all the people praise you.

**People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge with equity and guide our living.**

Leader: The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.

**People: May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere the Lord!**

**Moment of Silent Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer (trespasses/debts)**

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 (debts), as we forgive those who trespass against us (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.

**Hymn 61**    *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*                      (Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.

Vs 2 There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good; there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

Vs 3 For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

Vs 4 If our love were but more simple, we would take him at his word, and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

**Rite of Baptism**      Peter Grant Thompson

Congregational Blessing:

We give thanks, gracious God, for Peter and for your love celebrated here today in water and Spirit. Give us grace to receive, nurture and guide Peter as a member of the body of Christ, your church. Give Peter strength for life's journey, courage through any suffering, the joy of faith, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ who makes us one. Amen!

**Hymn 677**      *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*      (Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign; with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

Vs 2 Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed! Fresh from God, refresh our spirits, into joy and laughter lead.

Vs 3 Child of joy, our dearest treasure, God's you are, from God you came. Back to God we humbly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

Vs 4 Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are. Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.

**Scripture**      Matthew 15:10-28      ~Heather Thomson

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

## **Sermon**

“Learning to See Again”

**Light of Service**      *ECAD* (Educated Canines assisting with Disabilities)      ~Jen Pfaltz

We have a chance to offer financial gifts in support of Spirit-led work. Undesignated gifts go to the recipient named above. Please use the white envelopes in the pews to designate giving otherwise. There is no obligation, and we always welcome prayers for our LOS recipients. Thank you!

**Offertory**      *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* - arr. M. Hayes

**Doxology** (two versions are offered) 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. OR: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Sharing Joys and Church Life Updates**

**Sharing Prayer Concerns**

**Silent Prayer and Meditation**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Hymn 596**      *Help Us Accept Each Other*      (Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Vs 2 Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Vs 3 Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Vs 4 Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

**Our Common Commission**

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**      *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* - arr. J. Carter

Please remain seated to listen or depart quietly.

**We gladly list these prayer concerns and ask you to keep us apprised of any updates so that we have the most current information.**

**If you would like a pastoral visit please call or email Pastor Erick  
(860-303-0910, [reverendole@gmail.com](mailto:reverendole@gmail.com)).**

### **Members needing our prayers:**

Patty Cammilletti, Steven, Tina & Aaliyah Chausse, Linda Creedon, Bonnie Greenwood, Bill Eckert, Arlene Patten, Dan Patten, Cindy Sinclair, Ernie Sinclair, Ann Thew, John Thew

### **Ongoing concerns for our relatives and friends:**

Annattie P., Eric, Jo, Kim (Sue Allen), Susannah, Katie B., Kelly W. (Sue Allen), Nell, Andrew Anderson (Ruth Adotte), Jay Atkinson, Ray Beyers & Misty Carbone, Andrea Blacklow (Kristin Mudge's friend), Edie Bruckner, Ron and Rev. Karen Burger (Gary Boucher), Leigh Cappabianca (Missionary in Turkey), Jan Caudle (Nels White's sister), Hope Childs, Lisa Dedon, Carol Emerson (Nancy Herzig's sister), John Funchion, Fran and Arnold Gellman (Tina Olsen), Godshall family (Liz Allyn), Dennis Carr Hannifin (Sally Carr's son), Olivia Howard (Ky Byrne's cousin), Pat Lowell, Rick Martin (Ruth Adotte), Patty Minton (Maresi Brown's mother), Lynn and Rich Reifsnyder, Abby Rockwood (Olsen family friend), Bobbi Sue & Ira Root, Laura Smith (Missionary in Venezuela), Ryan Sterba, Barbara Storrs (Debbie Storrs), Rob Thew, Sue Ellen Thomas (Pastor Erick's sister), Dennis Watlington (Tim Hitchcock), Judi Welch, Keegan Zygmunt

### **Those who are grieving: the families of:**

Ernest Dibble, George Green, Judy Green, Jackie Hamad, Harold King, Karen Linden, Will Minton, John Murphy, Avery Nelson, Elizabeth Norman, Bill Patrick, Sally Quale, Constance Rotondo, Thatcher Rupert, Mary Sager, Dottie Satherlie, Carrie Stetson, Chris Williams, and the Cornwall UCC

### **In the wider community**

The people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Venezuela, Syria, Iran, Africa and all enduring ongoing violence, the people of Jamaica struggling to rebuild after Hurricane Melissa, our Canadian neighbors who have been impacted by wildfires, *Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities (ECAD)*