

Clarendon United Methodist Church

Order of Worship

September 13, 2026 10:00 AM

Welcome to this time of worship, as we gather in the name of Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Reflection

Mark Williams

Steve McBride, organ

Welcome

Jennifer London

Greeting

Leader: Generous God, we praise you!

People: Risen Christ, we greet you.

Leader: You have led us through the storms of many conflicts.

People: You have set us free from all that enslaves us.

Leader: You have forgiven us all alike. Set us free again, Beloved.

People: Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, and transform us by your grace.

All: Alleluia!

Hymn

Come, Christians Join to Sing

Prayer of Confession

Leader: The grace of God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Trusting in God's tender mercy,
let us confess our sin to God and one another.

People: God have mercy.

Leader: God of love, we bring to mind those ways we have not followed your will,
those ways we have been enslaved by our fears and desires,
and we ask your forgiveness.

People: God, have mercy. [Silent prayer]

Leader: God of love, we bring to mind those whom we ourselves need to forgive.
We confess our bitterness and ask your forgiveness,
and we ask you to help us forgive those whom we have not yet forgiven.

People: God have mercy. [Silent prayer]

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Scott Duncan Hopkins

Pastor: Out of our anxieties, alienation and separateness,
through the haze and loneliness of our doubt,
we have been called to this place of peace.
You are free and made whole.
Come to the Holy One and sit, breathe, and know that you are held.
We are here. We are all here. We are all healed.
Never again do you have to be alone!

All: Amen.

Anthem

I Sing Because I'm Happy

Summer Choir

Martin/Gabriel
arr. Dilworth

Children's Message/Blessing of the Backpacks

Amber Vincent

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-35

Jennifer London

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Medicine of Mercy"

Rev. Hopkins

Morning Prayer

Jennifer London

Offering

*You are invited to make your offering to support the ministry and mission of Clarendon UMC.
You may go to the Online Worship page of our website and click "Make your online offering."*

Holy Communion

Rev. Hopkins

*In the United Methodist tradition, all who seek to lead a Christian life,
together with their children, are invited to receive communion.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor continues with the Great Thanksgiving prayer, concluding with:

All honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

And now with the confidence of children of God,
let us pray as our Lord taught us:

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.

And lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil,

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory forever. Amen.

Sending Forth

Whitney Maine, Lay Leader

***Hymn**

Joy of the Lord

see songsheet

***Benediction**

Bulletin Cover: This pencil drawing is titled "Forgiveness". The artist, CUMC member Susan Prokop, writes: "Art has always been my passion but life, as it sometimes does, took a different direction. When I was able to finish my Associate Fine Arts degree this past May, I was grateful to God for enabling me to do that and offered to use my skills in whatever direction He might prompt. One Sunday a few weeks ago, I was listening to Pastor Hop sermonize on the subject of forgiveness. An image of two people – one holding a red MAGA hat embracing a transgender individual standing before a welcoming Jesus – popped into my head. My immediate reaction was 'Oh Lord, you have to be kidding!' But a commission is a commission, so I drew this image adding an older woman in a blue dress as something of a reminder to myself and a young boy in a soccer jersey for balance. The woman can't quite seem to hug the guy with the red cap but that just means she has some further work to do."