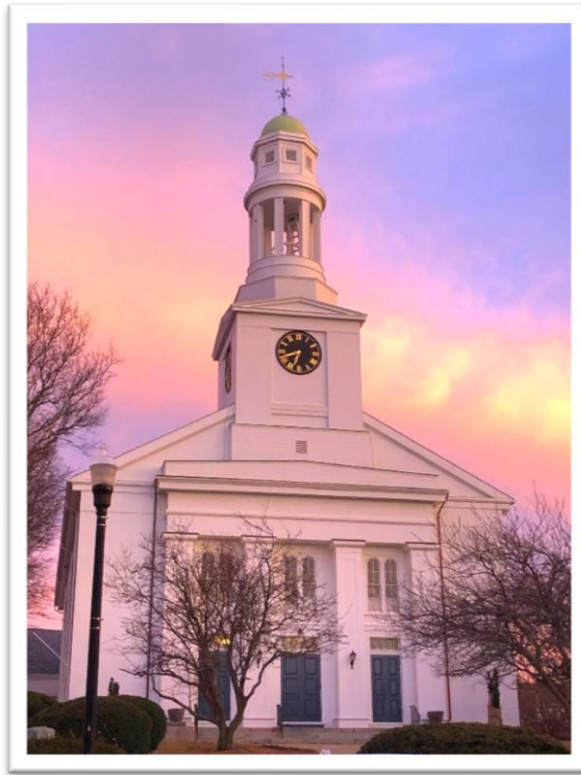


The First Congregational Church of Rockport United Church of Christ

12 School Street ~ Rockport, MA 01966

Sunday, September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost



*The First Congregational Church of Rockport is an
Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.
Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith,
you are welcome here for an hour or a lifetime.*

Welcome to our Sanctuary! Hearing devices are on a rack by the main entrance, cushions are available in the last pew. Please be at home and comfortable here!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude All Glory Be To God On High

Johann Walter

Call to Worship (Ps. 103:1-6,8, adapt.)

One Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

All: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits--

**who forgives all our iniquity, who heals all our diseases,
who redeems our lives from the Pit,
who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies us with good as long as we live
so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

One: The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

**All: The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
Therefore, let us worship God.**

***Processional Hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #15 Red**

Welcome & Announcements

Blessing of the Backpacks

Choral Anthem O God Beyond All Praising Gustav Holst/Michael Perry

WORD

Prayer of Invocation

Lou Cannon

One: O God of Joseph and all his brothers, your forgiveness transcends whatever wrong exists between us.
Grant us the courage to forgive others, and to practice reconciliation by the kindness of our speaking, the sharing of our resources, and the honoring of your desire for good.

All: Amen.

Scripture Genesis 50:15-21 Matthew 18:21-35

Lou Cannon

Sermon

***Hymn** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #23 Black

RESPONSE

Prayers of the People and Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

All: Our Father and Mother, 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, for ever and ever. Amen

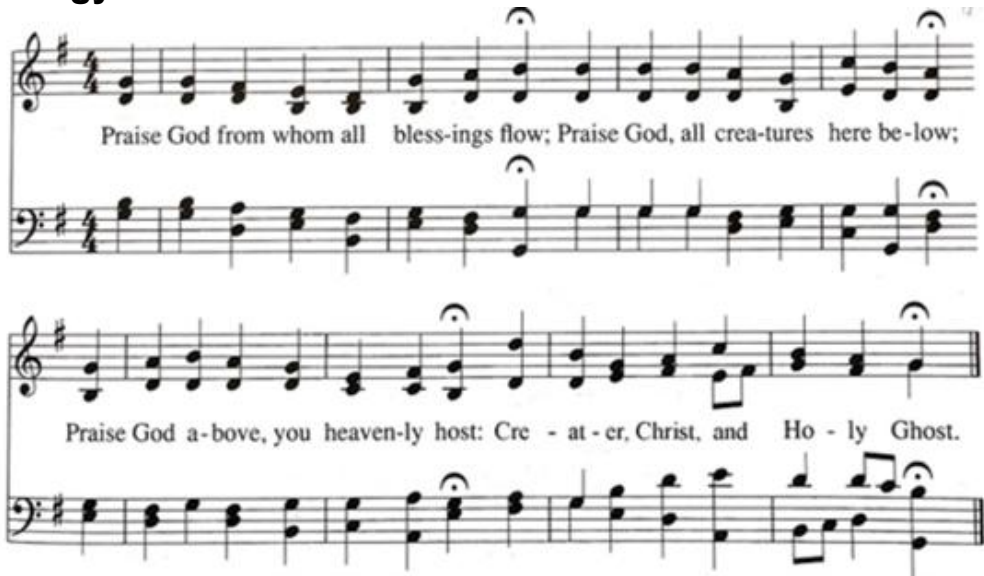
Jaques Berthier - Taizé Chant (sing 3x)

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). It is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho-ly name - Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The score consists of two systems of staves, each with four staves for the voices. The first system ends with a long note on the Soprano and Alto parts, and the second system ends with a double bar line.

Offering

Offertory Solo Holy Manna William Moore/George Atkin

* Doxology



Prayer of Dedication

One: Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

All: Blessed be God forever. Amen.

SENDING AND DEPARTING

*Hymn "Lord Dismiss us with Your Blessing" #77 Black

*Benediction

Postlude The Earle of Oxford's Marche (excerpt)

William Byrd

Coffee hour is hosted by the Faith Formation Committee in Fellowship Hall after the service. Also after the service, the Search Committee information group will meet with interested members of the Congregation in the Sanctuary and the Outreach committee will meet in the Morgan Room.

Today's Service Helpers

Liturgist Lou Cannon

Ushers Linda and Steve Rowell

Soloist Gillian Hurst

***The altar flowers this morning are
dedicated to and a "Welcome Back" to the
Old Sloop Youth, 12 School Street
Singers, and Adult Choir.
Have a great year!!!***



About Us

Our Covenant

We, the members of this congregation welcome you with gladness into our lives. We renew our covenant of faith and offer you our support, encouragement and love to the end that all of us may grow in the boundless mercy of God. By loving and being loved, forgiving and being forgiven, serving and being served, let us go forward together with courage as Christ's disciples, glorifying God by being fully alive.

Our Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of The First Congregational Church of Rockport are called upon to love each other as God loves us, freely and unconditionally. Therefore, we covenant to become an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming persons of every age, ability, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, nationality, ethnicity and immigration status into full membership and participation in our community life and ministry. We embrace and support those who experience rejection and exile from spiritual community and commit ourselves to the struggle against injustice.

Serving the Church

The Congregation, Ministers

Rev. Dr. James Olson, Interim Pastor

Dr. Philip Swanson, Music Director

Kristina Martin, Associate Music Director

Kaitlyn Welch, Director of Faith Formation

Annette Mackin, Office Manager

Phil Bynarowicz, Church Sexton

Daniel Chase, Tech. Person

Contact information

office@oldsloop.org

www.oldsloop.org.

978-546-6638

office hours:

Wed, Thu., Fri. 9-noon & 1-3

Pastor: Th. & Fri. 10-noon





Welcome to parents of young children: Relax! There are worship carts available with coloring, books, fidgets, sensory items etc. to use during the summer months.

God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house. Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage. Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, musicians, and leaders. Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behavior by mimicking you.

If you must leave the Sanctuary with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. There is a room off the Narthex/main entry way with a stream of the service and toys as well, so you don't miss anything! As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

We acknowledge that the land we live on and the water that surrounds us were inhabited by the Pawtucket peoples, members of the Wabanaki Confederacy.