

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE *Christ for the World We Sing*

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: How awesome it is to gather before God. We are here to celebrate with wide-eyed wonder.

All: The God of all worlds is with us. Praise God for this season of Pentecost, for this season of the Spirit.

P: Praise God for the signs of life all around us! Praise God for all we can do together to serve and witness to God's love for all.

All: Praise God for the life and ministry of Christ Jesus. Praise God for all who share that ministry today.

P: Christ came to offer us abundant life. We are here to embrace that gift and share it throughout our lives and world.

All: We gather in the name of Christ Jesus to follow where he leads, and to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

*OPENING HYMN *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* Terry Heller,
Piano (See Insert)

*GATHERING PRAYER with WORDS OF CONFESSION

Spirit of the Living God, help us to walk with you, to follow you each day, each step of the way on the journeys of our lives. Keep reaching out to us; continue to speak to us; never tire of teaching us, of showing us your way.

Gracious God, you have taught us to love you with our whole being, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, give us the grace, courage, and energy to do so. Chide us and forgive us when we would keep your love to ourselves, rather than reach out to those most in need. Remind us that we are all family, those we know, those who are strangers to us, those with whom we would rather not associate, those we deem unworthy but you seek out and

welcome. Forgive us when we separate ourselves from all whom you love. Teach us that in keeping others at arms' length, we keep your Spirit from healing all and making us whole.

Grant us wisdom and strength to discern and work toward your day when all may live together in harmony with one another and with you. Grant us new life in Christ Jesus, in whose name we humbly pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*PRAYER RESPONSE

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 45: 1-15 A segment of the story of Joseph and his brothers, revealing God's will "to preserve life."

Matthew 15: 21-28 Even Jesus is led to a more complete understanding of his mission.

SERMON & STORY *It's a Family Matter*

*HYMN OF REFLECTION *He's Got the Whole World* Don Bizer,
guitar (See Insert)

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

THE MORNING OFFERING

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ and Spirit one.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* Don Bizer, guitar
(See Insert)

*BENEDICTION

**Please stand if you are able.*

We remember in our prayers: Tiffany Beaucage, Marie Cooper, Ruth Bryant, Ellen Keefe, Gary Spurgat, Beverly Parsons, Rose Young, Poppy Truchon, Virginia Chubbuck, Amy Poole, Joe Dee, Kathleen Grigg, George & Pat Greene, Jeff & Jeanne Sewall, Carol & Eric Johnsen, the Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgecomb Green.

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Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving service to humankind."



September 17, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

"God is still speaking"



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Guest Minister: Rev. Don Bizer

Church Coordinator: Marjorie DiVece

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

*1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!*

*2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.*

*3 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.*

He's Got the Whole World

*1 He's got the whole world in His hands.
He's got the whole wide world in His hands.
He's got the whole world in His hands.
He's got the whole world in His hands.*

*2 He's got you and me, brother, in His hands.
He's got you and me, sister, in His hands.
He's got you and me, neighbor, in His hands.
He's got the whole world in His hands.*

*3 He's got the wind and the rain in His hands.
He's got the sun and the moon in His hands.
He's got the mountains and the plains in His hands.
He's got the whole world in His hands.*

*4 He's got everybody here in His hands.
He's got everybody there in His hands.
He's got everybody everywhere in His hands.
He's got the whole world in His hands.*

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is now ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship to all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.*

*2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love every caring
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.*