

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEASONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: The light lingers long this time of year,

MANY: so too does our gratitude, O God.

ONE: As the fields grow lush with promise,

MANY: so may our spirits grow in faith.

ONE: As the gardens ripen toward harvest,

MANY: so may our love ripen into action.

ONE: As the tide rolls in and out, faithful and constant,

MANY: so may we trust your steady presence.

ONE: As the long days invite us to slow down and rest in the sun,

MANY: so may we rest, unhurried, in the glow of your grace.

ONE: As neighbors gather on porches and at the water's edge,

MANY: so may we gather here, as one body, in your name.

ONE: The light lingers long this time of year,

MANY: We rejoice in your light and life, O God.

WORSHIP IN SONG *In Christ There is No East or West*

#395

INVOKING THE HOLY | *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud

That floats on high o'er vales and hills,

When all at once I saw a crowd,

A host, of golden daffodils;

Beside the lake, beneath the trees,

Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine

And twinkle on the milky way,

They stretched in never-ending line

Along the margin of a bay:

Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they

Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:

A poet could not but be gay,

In such a jocund company:

I gazed—and gazed—but little thought

What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie

In vacant or in pensive mood,

They flash upon that inward eye

Which is the bliss of solitude;

And then my heart with pleasure fills,

And dances with the daffodils.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION | from *Psalms* 32

ONE: Happy are those whose wrongs are forgiven, whose burdens have been lifted away.

MANY: Blessed are we, O God, when your grace meets our brokenness.

ONE: When we keep silent, our spirits grow weary,

MANY: and our strength wastes away within us.

ONE: So we will not hide our sin from you, O God.

MANY: We will name our struggles and trust your mercy.

ONE: You are our hiding place, our refuge in times of trouble,

MANY: surrounding us with songs of deliverance.

ONE: Teach us the way we should go, O God,

MANY: and free us from stubborn hearts that resist your leading.

Silent confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of good faith, hear this: You need not strive. You need not worry. You need to suffer, or struggle, or fear. God loved you before you ever thought to ask. God's steadfast love surrounds all those who trust the gift of grace. Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey: Slow down, and receive the abundant love of God.

PASSING THE PEACE

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost

as it was in the beginning, it is now,

and ever shall be; world without end. Amen, amen.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS *Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Matthew 15:10-28*

SERMON

Pastor Aram Mitchell

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Joe Cough

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God... this is my prayer.

This is our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER | from *Matthew 6*

Note on language: When we pray to God as "Father" we are addressing the Creator in an intimate way, as a loving parent. There are many other names for God that you may choose to use in the spirit of this prayer. When we pray "thy kingdom come" we acknowledge that God's kingdom is an upside down kingdom that topples oppressive forces with power from below.

Our Father/Mother which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in 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.

SHARING GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

*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

HYMN OF SENDING *Now Thank We All Our God*

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please remain seated)*

Joseph Cough

After the service, coffee hour is offered downstairs in the church vestry.

We remember in our prayers: Sue Sikes, Don Gage, Joline Allen, Stacy Colby Barnes, Rev. Larry Krewson, George Greene, Rose Young, Ron Leeman, 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."



August 16, 2026

12th Sunday after Pentecost

"God is still speaking"



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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