

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 *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* #400

INVOKING THE HOLY | Excerpt from *Sacred Instructions*, by Sherri Mitchell

We all come into this world with a set of instructions.

These instructions guide us toward our highest purpose.

They lead us to the essential truths that live deep within us.

This truth is encoded into our DNA.

It is embedded in our genetic memory.

It vibrates within us on a cellular level.

Every element of life carries this vibration.

Every living being has its own vibrational tone.

When these tones are combined,

they form the voice of creation.

If we learn to listen closely,

we can begin to hear that voice

and allow it to guide our steps through life.

Then we can begin to attune

our daily actions with our higher purpose

and become who we were meant to be.

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.

WILD BLESSING The Rhodes Family

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 *Psalms* 124; *Exodus* 1:8-2:10; *Matthew* 16:13-20

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 *Take My Life God, Let it Be*

#448

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *(Please remain seated)*

Joseph Cough

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

We remember in our prayers: Joan Spurgat, the family of David Boucher, the family of Peggy Averill, 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 23, 2026

13th Sunday after Pentecost

"God is still speaking"



An Open and Affirming Congregation

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