

Worship Service on September 17, 2023

Welcome and Announcements ~ Glenna Taxter

Today ~ Rev. Bill Boror's installation service will take place at 2 pm at the First Congregational Church in Manchester Village.
~ Alpha will be meeting from 5-7 pm in the church fellowship room.

Monday ~ The Uplift Cancer Support Group meets at 3 pm at church.

Tuesday ~ The Fundraising Committee is meeting at 7 pm via zoom.

Wednesday ~ There will be a By-laws Committee meeting at 5 pm at the church.

Thursday ~ The Prudential Committee will meet in the church fellowship room and via zoom at 5 pm.
~ Choir practice will also be at the church at 7 pm, and all are welcome to join.

Saturday ~ The Men's group will have their first breakfast and meeting of the fall at 9 am at the church.

Reminders ~ The Community Food Cupboard is collecting items for quick meals for September.

The Mission offering this month will go to United Missions Basic.
Thank you for contributing what you can.

Happy Birthday to Holly O'Brien on Wednesday
and to Kristen Jefferson on Friday!



Thank you to Jim and Cathy Comar for the flowers today
in loving memory of Judy Comar.

Word of Preparation ~ Glenna Taxter

Prelude ~ Please listen to "*Shelter*" by Jars of Clay
as we prepare our hearts for worship.

CCLI Song # 5701234

Charlie Lowell | Dan Haseltine | Matt Odmark | Stephen Mason
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Call to Worship ~ Psalm 46 (GNT)

read by Glenna Taxter with everyone joining in reading the bold lines.

¹ God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

² **So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken
and mountains fall into the ocean depths;**

³ even if the seas roar and rage, and the hills are shaken by the violence.

⁴ **There is a river that brings joy to the city of God,
to the sacred house of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in that city, and it will never be destroyed;
at early dawn he will come to its aid.

⁶ Nations are terrified, kingdoms are shaken;
God thunders, and the earth dissolves.

⁷ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ Come and see what the Lord has done.

See what amazing things he has done on earth.

⁹ He stops wars all over the world;
he breaks bows, destroys spears, and sets shields on fire.

¹⁰ "Stop fighting," he says, "and know that I am God,
supreme among the nations, supreme over the world."

¹¹ The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Song ~ “Come Thou Fount / I Will Sing”

*Come Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood*

Chorus

***How Your kindness yet pursues me
How Your mercy never fails me
'Til the day that death shall loose me
I will sing oh I will sing***

*Oh to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above*

Chorus

*Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above*

CCLI Song # 7072572 Chris Tomlin | Robert Robinson
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Praying Together ~

**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 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.**

Song ~

“Give Us Clean Hands”

*We bow our hearts we bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols*

Chorus

***Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
Give us clean hands, give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
Oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face, oh God of Jacob
Oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face, oh God of Jacob***

*We thirst for you. You satisfy
Restore us, come make us humble
We seek for You with all our hearts
O Lord, we cast down our idols*

Chorus

*We bow our hearts we bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble*

CCLI Song # 2060208 Charlie Hall (Verse 2 by Matthew Sommons)
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Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca

Scripture Passage ~ 1 Samuel 7:1-17 (NLT) read by Glenna Taxter

7 So the men of Kiriath-jearim came to get the Ark of the Lord.
They took it to the hillside home of Abinadab
and ordained Eleazar, his son, to be in charge of it.

² The Ark remained in Kiriath-jearim for a long time—
twenty years in all.

During that time all Israel mourned
because it seemed the Lord had abandoned them.

³ Then Samuel said to all the people of Israel,
“If you want to return to the Lord with all your hearts,
get rid of your foreign gods and your images of Ashtoreth.
Turn your hearts to the Lord and obey him alone;
then he will rescue you from the Philistines.”

⁴ So the Israelites got rid of their images of Baal and Ashtoreth
and worshiped only the Lord.

⁵ Then Samuel told them,
“Gather all of Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you.”

⁶ So they gathered at Mizpah and,
in a great ceremony, drew water from a well
and poured it out before the Lord.

They also went without food all day
and confessed that they had sinned against the Lord.
(It was at Mizpah that Samuel became Israel’s judge.)

⁷ When the Philistine rulers heard that Israel had gathered at Mizpah,
they mobilized their army and advanced.

The Israelites were badly frightened
when they learned that the Philistines were approaching.

⁸ “Don’t stop pleading with the Lord our God
to save us from the Philistines!” they begged Samuel.

(continued on the next page)

⁹ So Samuel took a young lamb
and offered it to the Lord as a whole burnt offering.
He pleaded with the Lord to help Israel,
and the Lord answered him.

¹⁰ Just as Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering,
the Philistines arrived to attack Israel.
But the Lord spoke with a mighty voice of thunder from heaven that day,
and the Philistines were thrown into such confusion
that the Israelites defeated them.

¹¹ The men of Israel chased them from Mizpah to a place below Beth-car,
slaughtering them all along the way.

¹² Samuel then took a large stone
and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah.
He named it Ebenezer
(which means “the stone of help”),
for he said, “Up to this point the Lord has helped us!”

¹³ So the Philistines were subdued
and didn’t invade Israel again for some time.
And throughout Samuel’s lifetime,
the Lord’s powerful hand was raised against the Philistines.

¹⁴ The Israelite villages near Ekron and Gath
that the Philistines had captured were restored to Israel,
along with the rest of the territory that the Philistines had taken.
And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites in those days.

¹⁵ Samuel continued as Israel’s judge for the rest of his life.

¹⁶ Each year he traveled around, setting up his court first at Bethel,
then at Gilgal, and then at Mizpah.

He judged the people of Israel at each of these places.

¹⁷ Then he would return to his home at Ramah,
and he would hear cases there, too.
And Samuel built an altar to the Lord at Ramah.

Sermon ~ “Learning to Lead” ~ Pastor Rebecca

Song ~

“Never Once”

*Standing on this mountaintop, looking just how far we've come
Knowing that for every step, You were with us
Kneeling on this battleground, seeing just how much You've done
Knowing every victory was Your power in us
Scars and struggles on the way, but with joy our hearts can say
Yes, our hearts can say ~ Never once did we ever walk alone
Never once did You leave us on our own
You are faithful, God, You are faithful
Kneeling on this battleground, seeing just how much You've done
Knowing every victory was Your power in us
Scars and struggles on the way, but with joy our hearts can say
Yes, our hearts can say ~ Never once did we ever walk alone
Never once did you leave us on our own
You are faithful, God, You are faithful
You are faithful, God, You are faithful
Scars and struggles on the way, but with joy our hearts can say
Never once did we ever walk alone
Carried by Your constant grace, held within Your perfect peace
Never once, no we never walk alone
Never once did we ever walk alone
Never once did You leave us on our own
You are faithful, God, You are faithful
Every step, we are breathing in Your grace
Evermore we'll be breathing out Your praise
You are faithful, God, You are faithful (3X)*

CCLI Song # 5997055 Jason Ingram | Matt Redman | Tim Wanstall

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Benediction ~ Hebrews 13:5b-6 (NIV)

God has said ~ “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

⁶So we say with confidence ~

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?”