

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30AM, June 14th, 2026

Liturgist: Gail Lingerman

Asterisk (*) indicates standing, as able. Bold/colored type indicates text spoken in unison.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

God meets us in surprising yet ordinary places—under a tree, in the smile of a stranger, in a refreshing breeze that comes at just the right time.

God, open our hearts to notice your presence all around us.

God speaks to us in surprising yet ordinary ways—in a well-placed word from a friend, in a prayer that comes at just the right time, in a song that resonates through our entire being.

God, open our minds to recognize your voice all around us.

God fulfills God's promises in surprising yet ordinary ways—in an unexpected act of kindness, in providing just what we need at just the right time, in sending someone to listen when we feel alone.

God, open our hands to receive your blessings all around us.

Beloved, in the surprising and ordinary ways that God shows up among us, may we meet God and our neighbors with open hearts, minds, and hands, ready to encounter God's miraculous work.

God, open our lives to receive your blessings, that we may share together in the joy, wonder, and laughter of God's miraculous works all around us.

*HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" **UMH # 139**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed **UMH # 881**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

God, as you met Abraham in an ordinary moment of hospitality, meet us today in the ordinary moments of our lives. Open our minds to recognize your presence among us; open our hearts to receive your promises; open our arms to embrace your miraculous works with joy, wonder, and laughter. As we gather to worship, help us find the courage to hope, the wisdom to trust, and the perseverance to cooperate with you as you fulfill our promises as you work for abundant life for all creation. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Responsive

Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives and asked them to

dream the impossible dream—that you would transform what appears to have been a barren and lifeless situation into one overflowing with promise and hope—and, through faith in you, they believed your promises.

Forgive us, O God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome interruption.

Faithful God, the apostle Paul emphasizes Abraham's complete trust and faith in your promises and how he grew ever stronger in faith, fully convinced of your ability to fulfil what had been promised.

Forgive us, O God, when we find it hard even to hear your promises above commercial assurances of transformation—promises tempting us to trust the newest and trendiest product to realize our dreams.

Merciful God, Jesus revealed the great depth of your love in his determination to defeat evil even when this meant giving up his own life.

Forgive us, O God, when we allow the power of evil to flourish because we fear that taking up one's cross would be just too costly an exercise.

Silent reflection on these words

Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you;

Have mercy on us and forgive us.

Help us when we hesitate,

and strengthen us when we are weak.

Breathe your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds—our lives—so that we have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he takes us. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and set free to walk in faith. **Thanks be to God.**

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 18:9-15 (NRSV)

9 They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent."

10 Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

- 12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?"
- 13 The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'"
- 14 Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son."
- 15 But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "Yes, you did laugh."

MESSAGE "From Bitter Laughter to Joyful Laughter" Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "Blessed Assurance" **UMH # 369**

THE LORD'S PRAYER **UMH # 895**

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" **UMH # 95**

*PRAYER OF OFFERING Unison

Joyful Giver of Miracles, we come to you with hearts open to the unexpected, for you are the God who surprises us with joy, even in seasons of waiting and even through our disbelief. You meet us in the ordinariness of welcome, and you plant seeds of laughter that bloom into life. As Abraham and Sarah offered their hospitality and received the promise of new life, so we offer our gifts in trust and gratitude. Bless these gifts, O God, that they may bear witness to your goodness and extend joy, hope, and welcome to the world you so love. May our giving be a reflection of our faith, and may our faith be full of laughter. In the name of the one who brings life out of impossibility, Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "Here I Am, Lord" **UMH # 593**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* The offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to participate.

* Fellowship follows the worship service. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parlor.



Welcome to

Mendham United Methodist Church

www.mendhamumc.org

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

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Sunday, June 14th, 2026



Sarah and Abraham Offer Hospitality to the Visitors, ca. 526-547, San Vitale, Ravenna, Mosaic, Ravenna, Italy

Rev. Dongkue Jee, Pastor

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