

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30AM, September 13th, 2026

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

Followers of Christ, we live in a world where we hurt one another, where sin divides us one from another and makes us enemies instead of neighbors.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

The divisions in our world seem like too much to overcome, and we wonder if this forgiveness thing really works anymore. Maybe it worked for Jesus, but not for us.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

We find ourselves tempted by easy answers and quick solutions, reticent to do the slow and difficult work of reconciliation.

Yet we are a people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us.

In this place, may we encounter Christ who meets us in the places where we want to give up, where we despair that life-giving change is even possible, with abundant grace to sustain us on the journey.

God, form us today as people of grace, called by Christ to forgive and repair the rifts between us. Amen.

*HYMN "Majesty, Worship His Majesty" UMH # 176

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed UMH # 881

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Liberating God, we worship you. We praise you for delivering your people of old from enslavement in Egypt by opening up a new and unexpected future before them. They experienced your grace and mercy in awesome and life-sustaining ways, which must have been like

an impossible dream coming true. Through these acts, you showed your compassion for the weak and powerless of this world. We praise and adore you for opening up a new future for us when your love and compassion, your mercy and grace became enfleshed in Jesus Christ. He delivered us from the bondage of evil and sin through his death on the cross. The impossible once more became reality when love defeated evil once and for all. We pray that this time of worship will be a true offering of our wonder and praise that you should care for us so deeply and so faithfully. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

O God, we seek your mercy... yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged. We think it "only fair" and "what is right" when we retaliate and use harsh words and withdraw from relationship. The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend; still, we withhold forgiveness and carry the grudge over petty items. We are eager to do your judging. And the worst: we conspire our inner thoughts to secure your forgiveness while avoiding honest repentance. Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know in our hearts. Save us, Lord, from the sins we hide.

Silent confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's gift of forgiveness makes us able, with the power of Holy Spirit, to choose to forgive, renew, and live again in right relationship with each other and with our God. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God! Amen.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:21-27 (NRSV)

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him,
25 and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.
26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'
27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

MESSAGE "The Grace of Forgiveness" Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "Jesus, United By Thy Grace" UMH # 561

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

Merciful Deliverer, you part the waters when we feel trapped and forgive debts too great to repay. In the face of fear and brokenness, you lead us with compassion and grace. May the gifts we bring today reflect our deep gratitude for your mercy. Let them support ministries of reconciliation and acts of healing, justice, and welcome. Teach us to lead not with judgment, but with generosity, recognizing that what we have, we hold by your mercy. Bless these offerings and bless us as stewards of your kin-dom, always seeking to build a world where grace is not rare but abundant. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" UMH # 402

*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, September 13th, 2026



Crossing the Red Sea, T'oros Roslin, active 13th century,
Israel, Jerusalem, Armenian Patriarchate Library

Rev. Dongkue Jee, Pastor

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