

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30AM, September 20th, 2026

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

In times of busyness and stress when we feel surrounded by challenges on all sides...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

In times of joy and rest when we feel the goodness of God's provision and abundance deep in our bones...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

In times of conflict and distress when we feel just how hard it is to live in unity together...

We gather to learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Disciples of Christ, come, let us worship God who empowers us to press on...

As we learn to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

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

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

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Mighty God, we enter your presence with thanksgiving and hope. You have formed us as your people. You join us on the journey of life through valleys, upon mountains, and on the plains. We set our attention and seek your wisdom, encouragement, and grace. Reveal your will and display your glory among your people as we worship your holy name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

It seems we cannot decide, Cloud of Glory. We say we will live to serve others, but end up meeting only our needs. We claim to live in a way that honors Christ, but we do not take him to work, school, home. We believe that the gospel can transform lives, (at least, for those who need it - not us). Forgive us, Presence of Peace. Instead of grumblers, may we be ambassadors of grace. Instead of continual complaining, may we carry compassion to the hurting. Instead of whiners, may we be workers with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet.

Silence is kept

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

This is the good news: there is no ranking in God's kingdom. God graces everyone with the same gifts: mercy, restoration, new life. **God has kept the covenant. We have been forgiven, we have been made new people. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 1:21-30 (NRSV)

21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; yet I cannot say which I will choose.

23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better,

24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,

26 so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel

28 and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.
29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well,
30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

MESSAGE “Walking Together Toward the Kingdom of God” Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN “I Stand Amazed in the Presence” **UMH # 371**

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

Steadfast God, for us to live is Christ. In every season, you hold us, and in every struggle, you knit us together as one body. Receive these gifts as signs that we choose to stand firm, striving side by side, living as citizens of your kin-dom. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, strengthen your church, and bear witness that love is stronger than fear. Shape our common life to be worthy of the gospel, until our unity itself proclaims your grace. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN “Story to Tell to the Nations” **UMH # 569**

*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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20th, 2026



Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, ca. 1752, Painting,
Poland, Warsaw, Palace on the Isle

Rev. Dongkue Jee, Pastor

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