

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

9:30AM, October 18th, 2026

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

We are chosen children of God, bound together by the Holy Spirit.

We belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another.

The Spirit empowers us to live as imitators of Christ in love of God, neighbor, self, and all creation.

We belong to God, and through God, we learn to love one another.

The Spirit inspires us to receive God's Word with joy in a world that rejects the good news.

We belong to God, and through God, we live in joy with one another.

Come, let us worship in the assurance of God's love that chooses us, empowers us, and inspires us to live as the family of Christ.

We come to worship God in the assurance that we belong to God, and through God, we belong to one another. Amen.

*HYMN "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UMH # 140

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed UMH # 881

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

God of Grace, we know that you have chosen us, but we often forget that you have also chosen others. You call us to be imitators of Christ, yet many times we are imitators of the world. You challenge us to turn from our idols, but we are tempted to turn back to them again and again. Rescue us, Lord, from ourselves. Show us your way. Guide our every action, that we may live as you call us to live.

Prayers of silent confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Beloved children of God, receive this good news: God loves us, chooses us, forgives us, and renews us to live in love and service of God and neighbor.

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

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10 (NRSV)

6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired from the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.

9 For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God,

10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

MESSAGE

"Becoming Imitators of the Lord"

Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN

“I Come With Joy”

UMH # 617

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

Gracious God, you choose ordinary people and weave them into a community that shines with your love. We thank you for the gift of belonging—for the call to live our faith in ways that ripple outward into the lives of others. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our willingness to be witnesses to your grace. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, welcome the searching, and strengthen your church as a living example of hope. May our shared life together always point to Christ, whose love calls and sends us. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

UMH #369

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



Welcome to

Mendham United Methodist Church

www.mendhamumc.org

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 18th, 2026



Roman Coin of Caesar Augustus, 1st century, Coinage,
France, Paris, Bibliothèque nationale

Rev. Dongkue Jee, Pastor

Cell Phone: 469-544-6373

Church Office: 973-543-6376

* 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.