

Order of Worship

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

Gathering Music *Hymn Melodies* arr. Adam O'Boyle

Welcome

Prelude *Dominus Regit Me* Bacchus Dykes

***Call to Worship** (Responsive)

God does not call us to ease or comfort, but to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.

Let us worship the God who believes in us,

And who asks much of us.

Let us worship the God who trusts in us,

And who invites us to a life of faith.

Let us worship the God who abides with us,

And who walks with us as we journey toward the promise. Let us worship God!

***Hymn 687** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* St. Anne

Call to Prayer

Prayer for Forgiveness (Unison)

Holy God, you give yourself to us and call us to bring our full selves to you, too. We confess that we aren't always fully tuned-in to you, to each other, or even to ourselves. Instead of the complexity of relationship, we swing between assuming our causes will automatically be yours, and thinking faith means we must be unthinking and unquestioning no matter what. We run on autopilot pursuing our own passions, or we act without asking if there's more to the story.

Forgive us when we say or think any variation of "I was just following orders." Forgive us when we use your call to faith as a way to hurt others. Forgive us when we believe the end justifies the means. Call us in to closer connection with you, and make us true covenant partners, invested in abundant life with you...

(silent time for your reflection and personal confessions)

Assurance of God's Grace

Word and Wonder – A Time for the Young & the Young at Heart

Scripture Lessons Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14 OT, p. 16

Sermon Really, God? Rev. Christie Ashton

Hymn 791 *For You, My God, I Wait* Springtime

Affirmation of Faith (Unison) The Iona Community
With the whole church, we affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit. With people everywhere, we affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong. With all creation, we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life, the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and this world. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

As we pray together the prayer Christ taught us ...

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.

***Hymn 815** *Give to the Winds Thy Fears* Festal Song

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude** *Bethany/Nearer My God* Lowell Mason

Worship Leader this week: George Young

Worship Leader next week: Abigail Ashton

What's Happening at Hope?

Save the Date! On Sunday, September 27 we will have a special worship service at 10:30 a.m. followed by a fellowship meal. More details to come!

Directory Update: We are updating the church directory! If you are a member or attend regularly, please complete a form, even if you do not wish to be listed in the directory (there will be a place to indicate that on the form) - we would just like to have the information on file in case it is needed. Please complete the entire form; however, only contact information will be listed in the directory. The directory is available to only members/attendees and by request from the church office (with Pastor Christie's approval). It is not public - we will never share your information without your permission. There are forms available during worship or from the church office via email.

Membership: We welcome everyone into our community with open arms - members, friends, and visitors alike! We hope our congregation is a blessing to you, whoever you are and wherever you are in your faith journey, whether it's curiosity about Christianity or lifelong discipleship. If you have been attending and would like to make a commitment to membership, we would love to have you to formally join our community. If you are interested in membership or have questions about it, please contact Pastor Christie or the church office.

Church Calendar at a Glance

September 7	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Session Meeting

September 14	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Choir Practice

Prayer Concerns

Members:

George Young
Luann Biles
Traci Loveman
Andy Young

Friends:

The Family of Kallel Fox
The Family of Jean Beagan
(Christie Ashton)
Barbara Dennis
Emily Loeb (Debbie Adsit)
Suzanne Minga (Traci Loveman)
Holly Carroll (Traci Loveman)
Bob Harriger (Joanna Sterling)
Melissa Altice (Angie Toles)
Mary Neikirk (Angie Toles)

Family:

The Family of Lowell Bidwell (Susan Bidwell)
Lys Howdle (Susan Terry)
Parker Lord (Candy & Bob Lord)
Marcia Loveman (Peter Loveman)
Fred Jones (Bill Jones)

Those serving in our military

Those affected by natural disasters and war around the world.

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For You, My God, I Wait

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Prayer Family of the Week:

Our prayer family of the week is **Gary and Kathy Graham**. This week, we ask the congregation to remember Gary, Kathy and their family, asking God to strengthen and bless them.

The Elder on Call for September is Brenda Brazier. She may be contacted at any time for information, emergencies, or concerns at **256-604-0825**.

Our Mission Statement

Called by God's grace, we celebrate life with Hope by creating a loving Christian community, serving and worshipping God, and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We provide an open environment to explore God's will, to grow in commitment to Christ, and to be a refuge of healing.

A Community of Hope