Order of Worship
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude

***Call to Worship** (Responsive) The Iona Community

In the beginning: before time, before people, before the world began,
God was.
Here and now: among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,
God is.
In the future: when we have turned to dust, and all we know has found its fulfillment,
God will be.
Not denying the world, but delighting in it; not condemning the world, but redeeming it; through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
God was, God is, God will be. Let us worship God!

***Hymn 32** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* Ellacombe

Call to Prayer

Prayer for Forgiveness (Unison)

Creator God, you know us better than we know ourselves. We confess that we often get our place in the story mixed up. We like to think we are always the good guys and we look down on those who should have known better, tried harder, and stayed away from the wrong place at the wrong time.

Forgive us when we think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. Forgive us when we assume we're your favorites, and others get what they deserve. Forgive us when we see grace for us and judgment for them. Forgive us and set us back into right relationship, with you and with our neighbors. We ask in your most holy name…

(silent time for your reflection and personal confessions)

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Word & Wonder – A Time for the Young & the Young at Heart
Presentation of Bibles

Scripture Lesson Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17 OT, p. 5

Sermon The Best Is Yet to Come Rev. Christie Ashton

***Hymn 315** *In the Midst of New Dimensions* New Dimensions

***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 308** *O God in Whom All Life Begins* Noel

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit as you are comfortable doing so.

Worship Leader This Week: Jenny Langston
Worship Leader Next Week: Susan Terry

Isle of Skye, Scotland, United Kingdom
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O God in Whom All Life Begins
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What's Happening at Hope?

Presentation of Bibles and Fellowship Lunch: Today during worship we will present Bibles to the children and youth as we begin a new cycle of the Narrative Lectionary. We will celebrate after the service with a fellowship meal. The church is providing the main dish (a baked potato bar) and you are invited to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share if you are able. All are welcome!

Church Calendar at a Glance

September 6	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Lunch
		NO Choir Practice
September 20	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Choir Practice
	11:30 a.m.	Session Meeting

The Elder on Call for September is Susan Terry. She may be contacted at any time for information, emergencies, or concerns at **256-975-9847** .

Prayer Concerns

Members:
Rev. Traci Loveman
Holly Lowe
Andy Young
Shelby Albert

Family:
Jane Davis (Christie Ashton)
Richard Davis (Christie Ashton)
Kelley Waldron (Christie Ashton)
Jimmy Marshall (Peter Loveman)
Lys Howdle (Susan Terry)
Parker Lord (Candy & Bob Lord)
Marcia Loveman (Peter Loveman)
Fred Jones (Bill Jones)

Friends:
The family of Tommy Glynn
Dan Hahs
Tracy Fletcher
Luke & Crystal Allen (Joanna Sterling-Clutts)
Barbara Dennis
Suzanne Minga (Traci Loveman)
Dr. Jon Wongsurawat (Traci Loveman)
Bob Harriger (Joanna Sterling-Clutts)
Melissa Altice (Angie Wester)
Mary Neikirk (Angie Wester)

Those serving in our military.
Those affected by natural disasters and war around the world.

Prayer Family of the Week:
Our prayer family of the week is Kitsy Stracener**.** This week we ask the congregation to remember Kitsy and her family, asking God to strengthen and bless them.