



# Falmouth Congregational Church

## United Church of Christ

Serving Christ and Community since 1754

An Open and Affirming Congregation

The Reverend Amelia Edson

Settled Pastor & Teacher



*Welcome! If you would like more information about our community, please fill out a blue visitor card.  
Throughout the order of worship, if the print is in bold, words may be spoken in unison.*

10:00 AM

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 20, 2023



**THE COMMUNITY GATHERS**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

John Toronto, jazz piano

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE** *(Please remain in your seat while passing the peace of Christ.)*

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

**PRELUDE**

“Aria”

J.S. Bach

Barbara Graustein, cello

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Adapted from A Blessing for the Start of the New School Year by Kate Bowler

One: We come to worship, a time set apart

All: **a time out of time**

One: But we are creatures of time! And the year is tilting toward fall

All: **The start of school, the end of vacation, the last of the blueberries,  
no more camp, camps, lake house**

One: Here in these last weeks, we’re hanging on to summer, to the promise it held— for long-awaited connections and celebrations, refreshment for our bodies and souls

All: **water and sky and color and sunlight**

One: Now that it’s almost over, we don’t want to let it go. The beauty. The freedom. All that was life-giving.

All: **God, who is out of time, help us stretch time**

One: And blend these summer dreams into the coming season

All: **Make our newly-structured days breathe with creativity, and our duties be infused with delight.**

One: As we look ahead and behind at our plans, many of which may seem to disappear into obscurity,

All: **May we remember that your mercy is new every morning**

One: And whatever is done in love will remain.

## **CALL TO CONFESSION** Adapted from the “Hold Fast to What Is Good” blog.

One: Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives

**All: That which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful**

One: Help us to learn the difference.

**All: We confess to ourselves and to You that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.**

One: We love with condition

**All: We judge and condemn**

One: Forgive us, we pray, and empower us to be imitators of Christ, the source of all healing and all hope.

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

## **CHILDREN’S MOMENT**

## **BLESSING AND SENDING OF HANNAH DALY**

## **COMMISSIONING OF LYDIA HOFFMAN**

One: Lydia Hoffman, we are entrusting you with our most sacred thing: our present, our future, tangible signs of hope: our community's children. We ask you, therefore, do you promise to care for them, and us, walking beside us in Christ's love, learning with us, and ministering with and to us?

**Lydia: I promise, with the help of God.**

One: Ministry is not done alone, and we are all called to labor for the kingdom of God. Do you, therefore, promise Lydia your love, support and prayers, and recognize her ministry amongst you?

**All: We promise our love, support, and prayers for Lydia and her ministry.**

**\*HYMN** "Jesus Loves Me" No. 113

**SCRIPTURE** Lamentations 3:22-23 Mickey Johnson

**INTERGENERATIONAL SERMON** Rev. Amelia Edson

**\*HYMN** "His Mercy Is More" See Slide

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERTORY** *You may also donate online or on Venmo @FalmouthUCC*  
"Blessed Assurance" Kristen Tripp, soprano

**\*DOXOLOGY** No. 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** "Day by Day" No. 599

**Day by day, day by day,  
O, dear Lord, three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,  
follow thee more nearly, day by day,  
by day, by day, by day.**

**POSTLUDE** John Toronto, jazz piano

† Musical material is presented under CCLI License #11176026

\* *Please stand in body or spirit*

*The flowers on the chancel are given from Michael Simari  
in appreciation for the prayers, support, and prayer shawl.*