

Worship Leader Guide

DATE: Sunday, October 12, 2025, 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Cultivating Hope

Preacher: Pastor Amy

Liturgist: Stacy C

Accompanist: Leigh Ann C

Greeters/Ushers:

Media Technicians: Tammy M

Nursery Attendant: Shirley C

[9:55 AM]

PRELUDE Song Without Words by James Mansfield

[10:00 AM]

ANNOUNCEMENTS - OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

WELCOME & WORDS OF GRACE

Amy: The Lord be with you!

Good morning! I am pastor Amy, I use she/her pronouns, and I am glad that you are starting this Sunday morning here at Grace UMC. It is a joy to welcome you today whether you are here in our sanctuary today or joining us on livestream. We know we have a wonderful, diverse group of folks that come to worship with us online.

Friends, hear this good news: you are welcome here.

No matter who you are or where you come from,

what you believe or doubt, what you carry in joy or in grief— you are welcome.

No matter your race, gender, sexuality, ability, age, or circumstance,

you are invited to come just as you are to meet the God who knows you by name,

who loves you without condition, and who longs to draw near to you.

You are beloved.

You are wanted.

You are welcome in this place.

Let's pray: Gracious and Loving God, you gather us from many places and weave us into one body. You call us by name, gifting each of us with purpose and grace. In a world that pulls us apart, you draw us together, to share bread and laughter, to bear one another's burdens, to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. As we worship today, renew our hope in the power of community. Teach us again that we are not meant to walk alone, that your Spirit moves among us, binding us in love stronger than fear and wider than division. May our life together reflect your kingdom, where all are welcomed, all are valued, and all are loved. Through Jesus Christ, who makes us one, we pray. Amen.

Liturgist: Please stand as you are able and comfortable and join me in the Call to Worship.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come together—many members, one body.

Many: Gathered by one Spirit, we belong to one another.

One: In our diversity of gifts, God's love makes us whole.

Many: In our sharing and serving, God's hope takes root and grows.

One: Whether we come weary or rejoicing, certain or seeking—

MANY: We come as the body of Christ, united in love, alive with hope!

One: Come, let us worship the God who calls us into community.

Liturgist: Let's lift our voices together in our opening hymn from the red hymnal, page 557, Blest Be the Tie That Binds.

***OPENING HYMN:** UMH# 557 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows, the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Liturgist: You may be seated.

Let's pray:

Spirit of the Living God,

You breathed life into the first disciples

and formed a community of faith that turned the world upside down.

Breathe upon us again today.

Open our ears to hear Your Word of unity and our hearts to receive Your call to love.

In a world divided by fear and power, remind us that hope grows where Your people live as one body, sharing Your grace and bearing one another's burdens.

Make us not just hearers of Your Word but doers of Your hope.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (CEB)

Liturgist: Today's first lesson comes from the book First Corinthians.

¹² Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. ¹³ We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Certainly the body isn't one part but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? ¹⁶ If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. ¹⁹ If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? ²⁰ But as it is, there are many parts but one body. ²¹ So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." ²² Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. ²³ The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. ²⁴ The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to

the part with less honor ²⁵ so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it. ²⁷ You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

A MESSAGE FOR THE AGES

ANTHEM "A Place to Belong" by Brian Buda

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Amy: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

JOY & CONCERNS

Amy: As we make our way back to our seats, we will move into a time of prayer. Are there joys and concerns that you would like to lift, so that we can be in prayer and praise with each other today and in this coming week?

PRAYER HYMN TFWS #2226 Bind Us Together

REFRAIN

Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together in love.

There is only one God,
There is only one King;
There is only one body,
That is why we sing.

REFRAIN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Amy:

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES Offertory on “Pisgah” by Steven Scott

Amy:

In the book of Acts, we’re told that the early believers “shared all things in common,” that no one was left in need, and that *“day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”*

That kind of community didn’t happen by accident, it grew out of people whose hearts were filled with gratitude and hope.

They gave what they had—time, love, prayers, and gifts, because they trusted that God could take what they offered and multiply it for good.

We give today in that same spirit of shared life and hope.

When we give, we help this community become a place where others find belonging, where hunger is met, where compassion takes root, and where the good news of Jesus continues to grow.

Let us bring our gifts before God, not out of obligation, but out of joy, for God is still building communities of hope through us.

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heav’nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Amy:

Let’s pray:

Loving God,

You have called us to be one body—many gifts, one Spirit, many hands, one heart.

Bless these offerings, and bless the givers, that through our generosity, Your love might be known in this place and beyond. Take what we bring, multiply it with Your grace, and use it to strengthen the bonds of community, to lift up those who are weary, and to share hope where it’s needed most.

We give not to earn Your favor, but to join in Your work, the work of love, justice, and renewal.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

SECOND LESSON Acts 2:42-47

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^u to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

Many: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Cultivating Hope: Hope in Community

Pastor Amy

***CLOSING HYMN** W&S #3120 Amazing Abundance

Amazing abundance poured out on this land,

The mark of your gracious and generous hand.

Your blessing is richest on those who will give

With joy and thanksgiving so others may live.

A holy compassion is born through the cries
When tragedy threatens and heroes arise.
God's spirit is present and felt everywhere
That hands reach through darkness and battle despair.

We pray for communion, all nations so strong
That difference is honored and all might belong.
A tapestry woven by myriad hands,
A banner of freedom the bright braided strands.

Praise God for the nations,
O help us to see
The whole world is yours, Lord,
And years to be free!

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Go now as a people made one in Christ.
Devote yourselves to the teaching of love, the fellowship of faith,
the breaking of bread, and the prayers that sustain the world.
Be generous in spirit, steadfast in hope,
and courageous in building the kind of community where all belong.
For the world is hungry for the grace you carry
so share it freely, trusting that when we give, God multiplies hope.

May the God who gathers us in love,
the Christ who holds us in grace,
and the Spirit who binds us in peace
strengthen you for the journey ahead.
Go in hope. Go in unity. Go in peace.
And may your life together be a living sign of God's kingdom
here, now, and always. Amen.

POSTLUDE With Sounds of Joy by Carl Simone