

*The United Methodist Church
12 Commerce Street
Clinton, CT*



*November 16, 2025
23rd Sunday after Pentecost*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

Words to Ponder: *When faithfulness is most difficult, it is most necessary.*

Anonymous

Introit

Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship (Responsively)

Leader: Celebrate and rejoice, all you people of Christ,

Women: For the Lord our God is doing a new thing!

Men: The old order is gone,

All: everything is new!

Leader: Illness, disease and crying and mourning,

Women: shall be as a distant memory!

Men: Hatred and war shall cease from the earth,

**All: For Christ has risen! Death is defeated! Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
Hallelujah! Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

“Marching to Zion”

No. 733

Opening Prayer (Unison)

Loving and Merciful God, we give you thanks. You bring us strength, when we feel weak; courage, when we cannot stand. You fill our hearts with your glory and bless our being with your grace. You protect our lives. In your care, not one hair on our heads shall perish, nor the smallest flutter of peace perish in our souls. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

O God, we see wars, hatred, and violence everywhere, yet despair of ever stopping them. We see oppression and injustice and persecution, but fail to raise our voices in prophetic protest. We have become a pessimistic people. Help us believe—really believe—in Isaiah’s vision of the peaceable king-dom, in your promise of a new heaven and new earth. Let your cry be our cry: “They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.” Amen.

Brief moment of silent confession

Words of Assurance

God is our strength and our salvation. God's anger is turned away, and in its place, we find comfort, steadfast love, and forgiveness. With this hope, we can draw water from the wells of salvation with joy and thanksgiving.

1st Scripture Reading (Old Testament)

Isaiah 12, 65:17-25

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Children's moment

Pastor Rhonda Taylor

*2nd Scripture Reading (Gospel Reading)

Luke 21:5-19

Leader: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

*Hymn

"You are My All in All"

Attached

Sermon

"Living Out Our Faith"

Pastor Rhonda Taylor

Stewardship Moment

Offertory

*Doxology

#95

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Restoring God, Maker of new heavens and a new earth, where sorrow is lifted, and joy takes root. As we bring our gifts this day, may they be seeds of your promised future—an offering of hope, justice, and mercy in a weary world. Use what we give and who we are to proclaim a kin-dom where none are forgotten, where the wolf and lamb lie down in peace, and where the sound of weeping is no more. Let this act of giving remind us that your dream is still unfolding—and that we are called to help build it. In Christ's name, who is our joy. Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Message from Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

*Closing Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

No. 577

Benediction

Go forth into a world that needs new visions. Bring the message of hope and love, of justice and peace, to all you meet. Live the dream. Make it reality. Celebrate endings and new beginnings, challenges and promises. Live the new creation. Amen.

*Response

“Bless Us Now”

Frank Milnes

Bless us now as we depart, watch o’er us, God, while we’re apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen

Postlude

Worship Resources

Opening Prayer

https://ministrymatters.com/november_16_2025_twenty-third_sunday_after_pentecost/

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance, Prayer of Dedication

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/the-days-are-surely-coming/twenty-third-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/twenty-third-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-liturgical-resources>

Benediction – Written by Joanne Carlson Brown, “Worship Elements: November 13, 2022,” Ministry Matters, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4387/worship-elements-november-17-2019>.

The flowers this week are from Deb Anderson.

SUNDAY, NOV 16

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship
11:00 Fellowship

MONDAY, NOV 17

WIC 8-5 pm

TUESDAY, NOV 18

10:00 Clever Crafters
7:00 Bible Study Online

WEDNESDAY, NOV 19

9:30 TOPS
5:00 Community Supper

THURSDAY, NOV 20

10:00 Bible Study
7:30 Choir

FRIDAY, NOV 21

5:30 AA meeting

SATURDAY, NOV 22

Holly Fair 9-2 pm

Ushers: Lyle Cubberly, Lynn Sellers, David Moore, Bob Morrison

Camera Operator: Banks Babjak

Video Coordinator: Dan Attanasio

Worship Leader: Jill Hale

Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 65:17-25, Isaiah 12, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Fellowship Hosts: Jackie Blomberg and Jeane Jarusik

Counters: Roger Templeton and Bob Hawes

Music/Choir Director: Bob Hale

Organist: Patty Hurlburt

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