

# The Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**June 7, 2026**

**9:30 AM**

Dr. Robert Althoff & Rev. Paula Gile

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

*A few things about our church...*

- ❖ A **restroom** is in the back area of the church by the closets. Additional restrooms and a **changing table** are available downstairs.
- ❖ A **supervised nursery** is downstairs for children ages 5 and under.
- ❖ **Bold type** in the bulletin indicates a response by all.
- ❖ An \* (**asterisk**) notes a time it is appropriate to stand in body or spirit, as you are able.
- ❖ Hymns marked **NCH** are in the **black New Century Hymnal**.  
Hymns marked **W&R** are in the **green Worship & Rejoice** hymnal.

## Preparing for Worship

Prelude

Ringing the Church Bell

Welcome & Announcements

### Gathered as One

Invocation

Rob Althoff

Wonderful God, we delight in your presence. We find shelter in your abiding and enduring love. You humble us, Holy Love, by gathering us as a people. Thank you for being our Companion and Guide on this journey. Receive our songs, prayers, and openness. Nourish us from the fountain of your word and the hospitality of your table. May we find hope and inspiration, courage and direction, community and resolve as we worship you.

**Amen**

Introit

Chorale Choir

Call to Worship

James Boyd

Rejoice in the Holy One! God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of God's steadfast love.

**The Voice created the heavens and the earth.**

**Praise God with loud shouts!**

Rejoice in the Holy One! God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of God's steadfast love.

**Let our voices ring and sing a new song. Let us turn toward the Creator in awe.**

Rejoice in the Holy One! God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of God's steadfast love.

**Happy are the people who seek God's counsel, who seek God's heart, and who seek God's kin-dom. Rejoice in the Holy One!**

\*Gathering Hymn

“The God of Abraham Praise”

NCH #24

Prayer of Confession

James Boyd

Holy One, through the Prophet Hosea, you declared, “I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

**We confess that, at times, we offer the ritual and routine of religious practices rather than a discerning heart that breaks with compassion and beats for justice.**

Strengthen us to the tenderness of knowing you, O God, more deeply, loving our neighbors more justly, and embracing our lives more fully.

*A time of silence to contemplate these words  
and how they apply to us personally and as a community of faith.*

Assurance of Pardon and Grace

Rob Althoff

Community of Faith, rest assured that renewal and revival is possible and available to us.

**Let us embrace our rituals to sing even old songs as if they are new, pray routine prayers as if they have been written in our hearts, and join in worship as if this were the first or last time.**

The Holy One makes all things new, and that may be so in us this day and every day.

**Amen.**

Our Celebration

“Spirit of the Living God”

W&R #492 v.1

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me,**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.**

**Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.**

## Proclaiming God’s Word

Time with Young People

Rob Althoff

Prayer for Illumination

James Boyd

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 12:1–9

Pew Bible 8

Psalms

Psalms 33:1–12 (CEB)

Read by All

**All you who are righteous, shout joyfully to the LORD!**

**It’s right for those who do right to praise God.**

**Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre!**

**Sing praises to him with the ten-stringed harp!**

**Sing to him a new song! Play your best with joyful shouts!**

**Because the LORD's word is right, his every act is done in good faith.  
He loves righteousness and justice;  
the LORD's faithful love fills the whole earth.  
The skies were made by the LORD's word,  
all their starry multitude by the breath of his mouth.  
He gathered the ocean waters into a heap;  
he put the deep seas into storerooms.  
All the earth honors the LORD;  
all the earth's inhabitants stand in awe of him.  
Because when he spoke, it happened!  
When he commanded, there it was!**

**The LORD overrules what the nations plan;  
he frustrates what the peoples intend to do.  
But the LORD's plan stands forever;  
what he intends to do lasts from one generation to the next.  
The nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people whom God has chosen as his possession,  
is truly happy!**

Epistle

Romans 4:13–25

Pew Bible p916

Response

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

Chancel Choir

*Old Southern Hymn tune, arranged by Virgil Thomson*

Gospel

Matthew 9:9–13,18–26

Pew Bible p790

Response

This is the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

Message

"Perfectly Imperfect"

Rob Althoff

\*Sermon Hymn

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

W&R #630

## Joys and Concerns

### Prayers of the People

Rob Althoff

Let us pray in the Spirit, who helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for the church... Through the power of your Holy Spirit, fill us with the hope of the gospel—the hope that will never disappoint us. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for the earth... Let all the earth make a joyful noise to you, for your steadfast love endures forever and your faithfulness is for all generations. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for all nations... Teach the leaders of this and every nation to keep their promises and follow your way, so that all may have fullness of life in you. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for this community... Let us be laborers in the field of your harvest, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and helping those who are suffering. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray for loved ones... Incline your ear to those who cry for help. Pour out your saving, life-giving power for those who call upon your holy name. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the Spirit, we pray to you, O God, confident that all things work together for good for those who love you and are called according to your purpose. Above all, we give you thanks, O God, that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Responding to God's Work

### Invitation to Generosity

Rob Althoff

Let us share the gifts of life and love given to sustain us on the journey. Our generosity strengthens communities and witnesses to the love of God in the

world. May our time, talent, and treasure testify to the goodness and abundance of God's creation.

## Offertory

### \*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.**

**CREATOR, CHRIST and Holy Ghost.**

*(sing the ending you are more comfortable with)*

**Praise FATHER, SON and Holy Ghost. Amen**

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

**Holy One, as we worship you through our giving, we dedicate these gifts to the work of your kin-dom come and our hope that your will be done in our community and world. Amen.**

## Gathering at God's Table

*Welcome to the Table of the Lord. In this church all persons who are open to the Holy Spirit, who seek to grow in Christian love, and who choose to serve in the name of Jesus are welcome to participate. Our bread is gluten-free; our cup is grape juice.*

### Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Paula Gile

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

### Communion Prayer & Words of Institution

Pastor Paula Gile

Let us gather at Christ's table to eat, drink, and remember our gentle and loving teacher, we gather in remembrance of Him.

**By this action of gathering, eating and drinking we are nourished for God's work.**

As we do this we are fed by grace, blessed by love and sent forth to live God's word.

**This is the bread of life and the cup of blessing, the presence of Christ within.**

Come to this table, where all are welcome.

**We come to the table of love.**

Loving God, you welcome all of us to this table, people of every culture and tradition: we ask now that you bless these elements. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking, that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize Christ in our midst, in each other and in all for whom Christ died. Holy Spirit, come, move among us and draw us close.

We remember that on the night when Jesus was betrayed, he took bread and after he had given thanks, he blessed it and broke it and gave it to his disciples as a symbol of his broken body. As this wheat was once scattered in the fields has now come together in this bread, so too, we come together as one body.

In a like manner Jesus offered his disciples the cup. This cup is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again. In one voice let us now pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**Distribution**

*We receive Holy Communion by intinction. As you come forward at the instruction of a deacon, receive the bread from the pastor. Continue to the deacon on the side you are seated and dip the bread in the cup. If you consume the bread before you dip, please ask the pastor for another. Return to your seat via the side aisles. If you would like to partake of Holy Communion and are unable to come forward, let the deacon know and the bread and cup will be brought to you.*

**Prayer after Communion**

**Pastor Paula Gile**

**We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus the Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# Sent Forth in God's Name

\*Sending Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation”

NCH #407

\*Benediction

Rob Althoff

As you go from this gathering, find hope in the journey, cultivate joy in the journey, give love in the journey, share peace in the journey, and trust that the God of the journey will be with you now and always; in the Name of God: Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

\*Benediction Song

**Seek justice. Love kindness.**

**Live humbly. Rejoice.**

**The world needs your wisdom,**

**Your passion, your voice.**

**So go make a difference in all that you do.**

**God's endless compassion will carry you through.**

\*Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Liturgy adapted from “Worship Ways”, Worship Resources for the United Church of Christ and “Call to Worship”, published by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in partnership with the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.*

*Thank you to our preacher, Rob Althoff, and presider, Pastor Paula Gile; thank you to James Boyd for reading and to our musicians, Mary Jane Wirsing, Diantha Howard and our Chancel Choir*

## Congregational Church of South Hero, U.C.C.

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