



August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing an experience of belonging, with God's music and the love
and justice of Jesus at the heart of what we do.

Welcome

Rachel Robicheau

Opening Music: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Opening Prayer

Rev. Sommer Johnson-Loar

Entry Into Worship

Joy Tardiff

One: "Look to the rock from which you were hewn," the prophet tells us.

Many: We remember the love that formed us and the grace that brought us here.

One: Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?"

Many: We come with answers, questions, faith and wonder.

One: We are not flawless people or built on perfect certainty.

Many: We are built on a living faith that keeps growing and changing.

One: Jesus gives us the keys... not to lock others out, but to open doors.

Many: And in doing so, we will make room for hope, healing, justice and belonging.

One: So come, all you who are seeking. Come, all you who are becoming.

Many: Together, we will listen for who God is calling us to be.

One: Let us worship the God whose love is our foundation.

Many: With open hearts and courageous spirits, we worship together!

Scripture: Isaiah 51: 1-6

Joy Tardiff

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Music: Christ Be Our Light

Sermon: Jesus Needs a Better PR Team

Rev. Sommer Johnson-Loar

Music: You Say

Affirmation (Unison)

Rachel Robicheau

We believe in God,
the Rock from which we were formed,
whose love held our ancestors,
whose faithfulness holds us now,
and whose justice will endure
when every empire has faded.

We believe in Jesus,
the Living One,
who asks us not merely
what others say about him,
but who we understand him to be
through the lives we choose to live.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who keeps our faith from becoming rigid,
who asks new questions,
opens new possibilities,
and gives us courage
to keep growing in truth and love.

We believe in the Church
when it is built not around one perfect person,
but upon the shared faith
of imperfect people following Jesus together.

We believe the keys of God's kin-dom
were never meant to become weapons
or tools of exclusion.
They are given to open doors,
loosen what has been bound,
and make room for those
the world has pushed aside.

We believe God is still building something among us...
a community rooted in love,
growing in courage,
and open wide enough
for all God's people to belong.

Offering Invitation

Rachel Robicheau

Pastoral Prayer (with 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Music: Draw the Circle Wide

Sending Forth

Rev. Timothy Sylvia, Pastor
Jeff Hobart, Director of Music Ministry

1 South Main Street, Randolph, MA
www.wearechanginglives.org

781-963-6373
info@wearechanginglives.org

Choir

Madison Christian, Angela Marseglia, Marjie DiSalvio, Joy Tardiff, Julia Pottey, Noah Hobart, Rachel Robicheau, Aaron Cohen, Laura Lee Coveney, Sam Hobart, Sue Goodale, Paul Meoni

Band

Jeff Hobart – Piano, Rachel Robicheau – Song Leader, Angela Marseglia – Guitars, Sam Hobart – Guitars, Joy Tardiff – Bass, Noah Hobart - Drums

Tech Team

Pat Dzierzak – Dramatic Sounds, John Silipigno, Adrian Sylvia, Caleb Tobin, Alex Goodrich, Ariana Seeramsingh

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This morning we welcome **Rev. Sommer Loar**, our Guest Preacher. Rev. Sommer Johnson-Loar is 2025 graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary, an ELCA pastor of Known By Name Collective in Appleton, Wisconsin. They use they/them pronouns. Rev. Sommer loves to doom scroll on TikTok, teach and nerd out over Star Wars and the show Castle. Mostly, Rev. Sommer is grateful to be with you!

POSTCARD WRITING CAMPAIGN, Today: We will be writing postcards to Michigan encouraging people to vote after Fellowship this morning. People can either write postcards at church or take some with them to write at home. We would appreciate it if people would provide stamps at .65 each, or we will provide them. Addresses need to be shredded, and postcards will be mailed October 21st. Thanks!

STAFF VACATION AND EMERGENCY PASTORAL COVERAGE: Pastor Timoth is on vacation through August 30th. If there is a pastoral emergency, please contact Paul Meoni (pjmeoni@verizon.net).

SWEENEY TODD, TODAY IS THE LAST DAY: An infamous tale, Sweeney Todd, an unjustly exiled barber, returns to nineteenth century London, seeking vengeance against the lecherous judge who framed and ravaged his young wife. The road to revenge leads Todd to Mrs. Lovett, a resourceful proprietress of a failing pie shop, above which, he opens a new barber practice. Mrs. Lovett's luck sharply shifts when Todd's thirst for blood inspires the integration of an ingredient into her meat pies that has the people of London lining up...and the carnage has only just begun! **Performances are at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm TODAY.** Get your tickets at bit.ly/2026SweeneyTodd

TAKEOUT TUESDAY, August 25th: Meals can be picked up between 5:00 and 6:30 pm. Please contact Paul Meoni (pjmeoni@verizon.net) if you'd like to help.

BOOK NOOK, Saturday, August 29th, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm: Come check out our huge selection of gently used books. Nothing costs more than \$1.00! Look for the 'Open' flag on the little, white building behind the church.

We need a couple of volunteers between 12:00 and 2:00 pm. Please contact Carol Wallace (akmom@comcast.net) if you can help. Thank you!

The **Racial Justice Team** is committed to protecting the right to vote in the September 1st primary and in the November 3rd midterms. We are sending postcards to voters in swing states. We are working with other groups in the community to ensure that eligible voters register, are able to vote and have their ballots counted. We have had registration tables at supermarkets and are now encouraging people to vote during the early voting week of August 22-28. After the primary we will continue to work to protect our votes in the midterm election. Can you volunteer 2 or 3 hours before September 1st for the Primary and then later in September and October for the midterms? Please contact Kate at LiteraryRN@gmail.com if you wish to volunteer. Many thanks.

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