

The UMC of New City Hybrid Worship

September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after Pentecost; "Beloved Community" - Week 2; 9-11 Remembrance (25th Anniversary)

Welcome

Pastor Amanda

Prelude

Dr. Diana Hughes

Call to Worship

Leader: God, you send us prophets so we know how to live into your kin-dom on earth.

People: Let us listen to the truth-tellers.

Leader: God, you desire to gather us together, but we are not always willing, and you lament.

People: Let us embrace each other.

Leader: God, we need to practice your ways of equity, inclusion, and mutuality instead of inequality and oppression.

People: Let us listen to one another's struggles with new ears.

**Hymn #474 (UMH)

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. **Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**
2. **When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**
3. **When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Unison Prayer

Lord God, when we live in denial instead of facing necessary truths, we are left with broken community. You call us to practice what we preach and not just pretend to be religious. As we come to you in worship today, purify our motives. Give us the courage to act where we need to act, to tell the truth even when it puts us at risk, and to step out of the way so that people can see your glory. Grant us the humility we need to match what we profess, to learn from you and our actions, and to remove the barriers to Beloved Community within ourselves and the world around us. Amen.

Children's Message

Litany of Remembrance for 9-11 (*adapted from a prayer by UM Discipleship Ministries*)

Leader: On this day of solemn remembrance, may we honor the lives that were lost in this tragic act.

Side A: May we give thanks for those who served and saved, who rendered aid and assistance.

Side B: May we give comfort to those who live with loss.

Side A: May we seek justice and peace where it is within our ability,

Side B: And may we rely on God when the ability escapes us.

Leader: On this day of solemn remembrance, may we build what has been torn down.

Side A: May we mend what has been broken.

Side B: May we live God's love when hate seems to reign,

ALL: AND MAY WE BEAR WITNESS TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

Scripture Reading

Selections from Matthew 23

Kristen Sandberg

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them.

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in you stop them. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cross sea and land to make a single convert, and you make the new convert twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful but inside are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of uncleanness. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

Leader: Gifts of the Spirit. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Message

"Beloved Community" - Week 2: Things that Hinder

Rev. Dr. Amanda Hemenetz

Hymn #560 (UMH)

Help Us Accept Each Other

- 1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**
- 2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.**
- 3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**

4. **Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

Prayer Requests and Praises
Pastoral Prayer

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.

Announcements

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Dr. Diana Hughes

****Doxology #95 (UMH)**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

****Prayer of Dedication**

Almighty God, who builds the beloved community with us and within us, bless these gifts and use them to your glory. We bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May these offerings help us to be a people who live what we say with honesty, humility, and compassion for our neighbors. Amen.

****Hymn 437 (UMH)**

This Is My Song

1. **This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.**
2. **My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine; but other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. O hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.**
3. **This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms: Thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done. Let God be lifted up till all shall serve him, and hearts united learn to live as one. O hear my prayer, thou God of all the nations; myself I give thee; let thy will be done.**

****Blessing**

****Choral Benediction**

Amazing Grace Amen

Postlude

Dr. Diana Hughes

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. You are always welcome here! To be added to our email list, ask questions, request pastoral care, or explore the possibility of membership, contact the church office at umcofnewcity@gmail.org or call (845) 634-1758.

Our youngest worshippers (Pre-K through 6th grade) are invited to our "Children's Church Table" after the Children's Message.

Our thrift shop, Angel's Attic, is open Saturdays 9am-2pm and Thursdays 10am-12pm.

We are a Reconciling Church; we fully love and accept ALL, including LGBTQ+ individuals and families.

Our Mission Statement is "Serving God through Serving the Community."

**Indicates to please stand, if you are comfortable doing so. 'UMH' = The United Methodist Hymnal (red); 'TFWS' = The Faith We Sing (black).
Both are available from the ushers.

Our worship elements today were written by the GNJ and EPA Commissions on Religion and Race.

QR Code for



online giving

May you go in Christ's peace, assured of God's love.