

Gather

PRELUDE *Feel So Good About It* [Roy Inman] Pentecostal Pickers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Alex Shea Will

CALL TO WORSHIP

Learning to dream like Abraham and Sarah,

God calls us into covenant.

Discovering how to trust like Moses and the Israelites,

God calls us into covenant.

Daring to give over everything with have like Jesus,

God calls us into covenant.

Remind us of your abundant love and generous spirit.

Draw us closer to you and one another this day.

CHERUB CHOIR ANTHEM

I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing [traditional spiritual]

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***OPENING HYMN** *Here I Am Lord* (#525 Red)

Sacrament of Baptism

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Dana Allen Walsh

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, Creator of us all.

Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united with Jesus Christ, and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. In baptism God works in us the power of forgiveness and the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be Christ's disciples always.

This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

INVITATION TO THE FAMILY

BLESSING OF THE WATER

QUESTIONS & AFFIRMATIONS

BAPTISM

Eleanor Belle Rusha

Rosemary Jane Rusha

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

HYMN *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* (#498 Red)

Children (Pre-K & older) are invited to attend Church School

Center

MUSICAL OFFERING *Go and Do the Same* [Lynch/Hayes]

SCRIPTURE John 15:1-17 (N.T. p. 84) Emily O'Hara

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERMON **GENEROSITY: A Pillar of Joy** Alex Shea Will

MEDITATION *You Are My All in All* [arr. Jerry Ray]

Share

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & PRAYERS IN THANKSGIVING

You are invited to write one or more words on the leaves in the pews as a symbol of how you'll be in covenant over the next year. At the end of worship, you can take a piece of twine and tie it to the vines along the side of the sanctuary; or, place it in the offering plate on the way out and we'll do it for you. If you have a financial gift for our ministries or our monthly mission partner, please place it in one of the offering plates as you exit the sanctuary.

INVITATION

Dana Allen Walsh

WRITTEN COVENANT PROMISES

Go and Do the Same [Lynch/Hayes]

LITANY OF BLESSING

Congregational Response:

We offer our time, talent and treasure.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 HYMN** *God Bless Your Church With Strength!*

(#418 Red)

Bless

***BENEDICTION**

Alex Shea Will

POSTLUDE *The Building Block* [Noel Paul Stookey]

Pentecostal Pickers

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our sympathy to Ellen and Dave VanArsdale on the death of Ellen's brother **Bob Lindaman** on October 22 in Minnesota.

FLOWERS

The flowers today are given in memory of **Mr. and Mrs. George R. Caldwell** by the Memorial Flower Fund.

PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICES

Acolyte: Megan Arbo, Sarah Beers / **Assistant Treasurers:** Kristina Cloutier, Michael Curry, Sandy Meldrum, Dot Tyler / **Deacons:** Emily O'Hara, Janis Hill, Suzanne Henderson / **Fellowship:** Mary Bambury, Martha Beesley / **Flower Arranger:** Carol Hopkinson / **Flower Deliverers:** Janis Hill, Kathy Schuck / **Greeters:** Alyson & Wayne Shaw / **Head Usher:** Margaret Crockett / **Sound:** Tom Appleton / **Trustee:** Iric Rex / **Pentecostal Pickers:** Elizabeth Baldwin, Barbara Holbrook, Steve Longo, Martin McGrath, Cathy Meyer, Ed Parker, Rob Thomas

PASTORAL AND PROGRAM STAFF

All Members are Ministers / Dana Allen Walsh, Senior Pastor / Alex Shea Will, Associate Pastor / Sherry Tupper, Minister of Visitation / Jennifer Murray, Minister of Youth & Families / Cathy Meyer, Minister of Music / Linda Francalancia Hacker, Administrator / Joanne Smith, Financial Administrator / Nora Pelt, Communications Administrator / Andy Brien, Facilities Manager

*
All who are able, please stand.

WELCOME TO SOUTH CHURCH

We are glad you are here. We are a Christ-centered community that celebrates the love of God. Although we are of varied minds, we are one body, bound together in Christ. We recognize the uniqueness of every individual as God's beloved child. We seek to respond faithfully to God's call for justice for all creation. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance. We seek to create a sanctuary where all will know they are welcomed and included. You are welcomed, no matter your age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, race and ethnicity, physical and mental ability, or economic circumstance, into the full life and ministry of South Church, including worship, sacraments and rites. Join us as we grow together in God's love.

Pray without ceasing...

[Thessalonians 5:17]

IN HOSPICE CARE Tom Carey (Piekarski family friend)

RECOVERING Ellen VanArsdale, Terry Ebner, Chris Ouimet, Manny Correia, Catherine Kane (John Riley's friend), Ken Cyr (Julia Rutherford's father-in-law), Stu Slater

HOPE & HEALING

Susan Dobbie & grandsons Dylan & Cole (Kate Smyers' friends), Mary Jay Hudak, Mary McGrath (Martin McGrath's mother), Kathleen Martin (Eileen Fogue's mother), Mary Carey (Piekarski family friend), Maureen Healey (Brian Healey's mother), Kelly Nelson (Scott Hoenig's cousin), Michael Hemmer (Anne Hemmer's brother), Sandra Flaig (Shad Flaig's mother), Susan McCullough & Alice O'Hara (Piekarski family's relatives), Betsy (Heather Saniuk's friend), Jeff Cutts, Kristy Riley Moulton, (Blech family friend), Greg Quick (Sally Baker Quick's brother), Paul Bursey, (Alicia Bursey's father), Nancy Esposito (Terri Guenard's friend), JP, Catherine, Grace & Fiona Ryan (Robin Flaig's friends), Renee Rich, (Shirley Stratton's friend), Donna & Jeff Donohue & family (Susan Sleight's friends), Ann O'Connell (Deanna Atchison's friend), Daniella Bernd (Shirley Stratton's friend), Joe Marchlewski, Chris Wikoff (Marna Moorhead's friends), Kathy Dann & extended family, Joan Butler (Lauren Stone's mother), Anne Pease

UNDERGOING CANCER THERAPY

Mary Ellen Fillback (Ann Riley's mother), Carl Kellerer (Kathleen Curry's uncle), Kelli Engler (Kath Mason's friend), Vanessa Dyer (Heather Harris' sister), Anne Hemmer, Richard Marshall (Carol Carmichael's father), Max Littlefield (Joyal family relative), Mary Ferguson (Kelly Ferguson Pace's sister), Keith Anderson (Mark VanDoren's friend), Glenn Green (Peter & Deb White's son-in-law), Donna Moberg (Carol Floreen's sister-in-law), Laurie Adami (former member), Becky Jordan Hull (Tom Jordan's sister), Barb Beechner (Barbara Collins' sister-in-law), Douglas Pratt (Marianne Knowles' brother), Barbara Sutton, (Shirley Stratton's sister), Jolice Sellers (Liss Seller's mother-in-law), Johanna Lunger (Stacy Lunger's mother-in-law), Mark Alpert (Courtney Rogers' friend), Annie Hudak (Jay Hudak's daughter), Jennifer Mancuso (Terri Guenard's friend), Ray Simard (Lysanne LaPierre's uncle), Joey Ranney (Kathleen Ranney's nephew), Kim Scartelli (Lisa Guy's friend), Barbara Rizzo (Norma Morava's friend), Joe (Brenda Bryan's friend), Helen Wikoff, Noelle DeLahoz (Marna Moorhead's friends), Tish Barry (Sue Barry's sister-in-law), Claire DeRosa (Irene Lattanzio's sister), Greg (Deanna Atchison's friend)

IN NURSING HOMES OR ASSISTED LIVING

Academy Manor: Allison Atwood; **Avita (Newburyport):** Anne Clough; **Marland Place:** Mary Hamilton, Gwen VerPlanck; **Edgewood Gardenview:** Ralph Crossan; **Prescott House:** Carlene Darby, Patricia Shaw; **River Ridge, Kennebunk, ME:** Jennifer Tupper Pedneault; **Sunrise (Burlington):** Phyllis Holmes; **Yarmouth, ME:** John Knowles (Jim Knowles' father)

SERVICE PERSONNEL

Andrew Santoro (Serena Santoro Manning's son), Torrey Benware (Courtney Rogers' cousin)

ALSO

People in need or in crisis, both known and unknown to us.



South Church in Andover

Faithfully Relevant | Radically Inclusive

An Open & Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ



Covenant Sunday

October 28, 2018 - 10:30 a.m.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Faith Forum: 9:15am—Library
Worship Music Rehearsal: 9:15am—Sanctuary
Drop-in Prayer: 11:45am—Parlor
High School Youth Group: 11:45am—Boson Rally
Newcomers Class: 11:45am—Chapel
Confirmation Class: 7pm—Youth Center
Conf. Parents Meeting: 7pm—Library

UPCOMING EVENTS

Day of Service & Supper: Saturday November 3
H.S. Youth Group Friendsgiving: Sunday November 4
Musical Showcase: Sunday November 11, 2:30pm
Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship: Sunday November 18, 5pm
Hanging of the Greens: Sunday November 25

Some Notes to Help You Feel at Ease this Morning

Children...

- **Four and Under:** Can have fun in our professionally staffed nursery.
- **PreK—Middle School:** Can relax & learn in church school during the school year and are welcome to participate in worship during the summer.
- **Of All Ages:** Can stay throughout worship and participate. Families can sit in the pews or at the table at the front of the sanctuary. It's filled with books and soft toys to keep little hands faithfully busy.

Visitors of all ages...

- Can fill out a Gold Card in the pew, to help us know that you worshiped with us, and leave it in the offering plate.
- Are welcome to an all-age fellowship after worship in the room directly under the sanctuary.

Folks new and returning to worship...

- Are invited to wear nametags to help us call you by name.
- There are no assigned seats; sit where you feel most comfortable.
- Ushers have hearing assist devices so all might hear God's Word.
- We celebrate the noises of children; they remind us we're alive.
- Generally: We stand for singing and sit for speaking.
- We sing with joy and spirit, without fear of judgement.
- We share our prayers vulnerably, and hold them with care.
- We pray with our eyes closed or open, our heads bowed or raised.
- We pass the peace with hugs and handshakes, with nods and smiles.
- We share communion with all who are willing—especially children.