ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Hancock United Church of Christ, Congregational • 1912 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA
Welcome to Hancock

We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this Sunday and are strengthened by your participation in our service! If you would like to watch us virtually, you can visit our youtube page via youtube.com/hancockchurch.

Given the continuing decline of covid cases, masks will no longer be required in any areas of the building or services. Individuals are always encouraged and supported in their decisions to wear masks as they need to given their own situation.

Infant and toddler care is available each Sunday. Today, it will begin at 9:30am in the nursery and toddler room. All children and youth are invited to worship with their families and to come forward for the Children’s Time.

www.hancockchurch.org
MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

The general subject of this chapter in Isaiah is Comfort. He starts out speaking to other religious folks and exhorts them to give the words of comfort to the people in Babylon. The time of captivity is coming to an end. Brighter and happier days were coming. The exhortation is repeated, to give intensity to it, in the usual manner in Hebrew, where emphasis is denoted by the repetition of a word. The word rendered 'comfort' means properly to draw the breath forcibly, to sigh, pant, groan; then to lament, or grieve and then to comfort or console one’s-self Genesis. All the forms of the word and all the significations indicate deep emotion and obtaining of relief, either by repenting, or by administering the proper topics of consolation. This is all meant to be—in accordance with the unchanging promises of a faithful God. You will possibly recognize these words as being used in reference to another herald of good times coming—which of John the Baptist. Reflect on this good news. Can you imagine hearing it for the first time?

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME ...................................................... Rev. Sue Remick

PRAYER OF INVOCATION.................................................. Katie Elliott

*OPENING HYMN...........Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing ................. #407

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD ..........................David C Clark

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD ..............................Rev. Sue Remick

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass

*Congregation standing—some may wish to remain seated
withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

**One:** The Word of God, for the People of God.

**Many:** Thanks be to God!

*Congregational Response* 

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

**Passing of the Peace**

**One:** The Peace of Christ be with you

**Many:** And also with you!

**Gathering Song**

*Guide My Feet*

Guide my feet, while I run this race (3 times)
For I don’t want to run this race in vain.
Hold my hand, while I run this race (3 times)
For I don’t want to run this race in vain.

**Children’s Time**

*PreK-5th Grade will have classes in the Church School wing and can be picked up there after worship. Childcare for infants and toddlers is always available, across from the C.E. Commons. See an Usher for assistance.*
THE MORNING OFFERING .................................................. Jim Weston

This week our offering will go to The Outdoor Church of Cambridge. To learn more, visit theoutdoorchurch.org. For more information about how to give, please see page 9.

OFFERTORY ................... Same God ...................... by Hannah Kerr
Eliza Zenk, soloist

*DOXOLOGY .......... From North and South and East and West................. S-29

From north and south and east and west, may God’s eternal name be blessed.

Alleluia! Alleluia! ’Til ev’ry where beneath the sun
thy kingdom come, thy will be done. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION ................................................ Rachel Barton

PASTORAL PRAYER ....................................................... Rev. Sue Remick

TIME OF SILENT 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 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.

THE SERMON ............... No Matter What ............... Rev. Sue Remick

*Congregation standing—some may wish to remain seated
RITUAL OF FAREWELL. .................. David Zenk, Brad Harding
Rev. Sue Remick, David C Clark

GREETING

David Zenk, Church Moderator: Our church community is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, growing toward new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share a farewell with our Senior Sabbatical Leave Pastor, the Rev. Susan Olmsted Remick.

Rev. Sue: I give thanks to God for the ways you have welcomed me, supported me, and journeyed with me as disciples of Christ. I will always pray for God's blessing upon you.

ENDING OF AUTHORIZED MINISTRY

Brad Harding: On April 17, 2023, this congregation called Rev. Sue Remick to serve as their Senior Sabbatical Leave Pastor; here at Hancock Church, United Church of Christ.

Rev. Sue: I thank Hancock Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown me these last 4 months. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been encouraged and accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

Congregation: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that your time with us is ending. We express our gratitude for your ministry among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Rev. Sue: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

VOWS OF RELEASE

Brad Harding: Do you, the members and friends of Hancock Church, United Church of Christ, release the Rev. Sue Remick from the duties of Sabbatical Leave Pastor here at Hancock Church?
CONGREGATION: We do, with the help of God.

BRAD HARDING: Do you offer her your encouragement as her life and ministry continues to unfold in new ways?

CONGREGATION: We do, with the help of God.

BRAD HARDING: Do you, Rev. Sue Remick, release Hancock Church from turning to you and depending on you?

REV. SUE: I do, with the help of God.

BRAD HARDING: Do you offer your encouragement for the continuing ministry here and on the relationship with the Rev. Dr. Barbara Callaghan, who will return to her service here as Senior Pastor of Hancock Church?

REV. SUE: I do, with the help of God.

BRAD HARDING: On behalf of the ASSOCIATION of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, I witness to the words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness and release. The member churches of our association and conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

PRAYER ................................................. David C Clark

ONE: Let us pray

ALL: O God, we give thanks for remembered times when we, together, have shared this life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Rev. Sue in worship, in prayer, and in presence. We pray that Rev. Sue will always be aware of your Spirit's guidance in her life and ministry. Help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION .......................... David Zenk

*Congregation standing—some may wish to remain seated
Blessing

A Blessing by Margaret Rizza

Rev. Sue Remick

Please sing along when it is your part.

Verse 1: Rev. Sue Remick sings to the congregation

2nd Time: Congregation sings to Sue

3rd Time: Sue sings to the staff

Interlude

Coda: Whole congregation together

Verse:

May the Lord bless you,
may the Lord protect you and guide you,
may his strength uphold you,
    His light shine upon you,
    His peace surround you,
    His love enfold you. (Repeat 2x)

Coda:

All: May the Lord bless you, the Lord bless you, the Lord bless you.

POSTLUDE
Worship God With All Our Hearts And Mind

**Morning Offering**

Each week at Hancock we accept an offering of gifts for two purposes:

**Mission Partner of the Week:** Each Sunday we accept gifts for one of our mission partners, a select organization doing God’s work in the world. Many are local or regional organizations with whom we’ve worked with for years. All are effective organizations making a difference in people’s lives. These donations are passed directly to the organization in addition to the donations included in Hancock’s budget.

**Sustaining Hancock’s Vision:** Gifts are also welcome in the Sunday offering plate for Hancock Church that support our staff, our building, community outreach, and all of the worship and programs at Hancock.

You may make a gift for either in one of three ways:

- **Through our website.** Go to www.hancockchurch.org, click on the Give button in the upper right, and follow the instructions to make a gift by credit or debit card, or ACH bank transfer. Be sure to indicate in the dropdown menu whether the gift is for “Mission Partner” or “Hancock Church.”

- **Send a check.** Make it payable to Hancock UCC, and note on the memo line either “Mission Partner” or “Hancock.” Our address is 1912 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02421.

- **Text to give.** From your smart phone or tablet, text the dollar amount along with “Mission” or “Hancock” to 781-386-0866 and tap the link to enter your credit card information.

**Weekly Offering**

Founded in 2003, the Outdoor Church is an ecumenical, Christian church for homeless and street-involved men and women in Cambridge, MA.

Each week, through worship services held outdoors, extensive programs of street outreach, and pastoral visiting, a message of hope and unconditional love is shared with those who need to hear it most. Co-ordinated by Daryl Battin, many volunteers from Hancock Church have provided sandwiches, fruit, snacks and water at least once a month for the Outdoor Church’s Sunday service and afternoon outreach.

While our lives are seemingly returning to more normal times, the lives of the unhoused and homeless community remain in desperate circumstances as they struggle to survive and make sense of their lives. Many of the unhoused and homeless community acknowledge that, while they are financially poor, God gives them the strength of spiritual wealth and talents to recognize the dignity and humanity of life.

Your gift of support and donations is truly appreciated by the unhoused, homeless, and street-involved community.

**Upcoming Mission Partner:**

8/20/23 Food Link

**Mission Partner Updates:**

- 7/16/23 Kids of Promise, $723
- 7/23/23 GBIO, $597
- 7/31/23 Habitat for Humanity, $729
- 8/6/23 REACH, $483
Walk Our Spiritual Path Together

**Announcing Our New Organist Ian Watson**

We are truly excited to welcome Ian Watson to our staff beginning mid-September! Below is an excerpt from his bio:

Multi-talented Ian Watson has been described by The Times in London as a “world-class soloist”, performer of “virtuosic panache” and by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung as “a conductor of formidable ability.” He is Artistic Director of Arcadia Players Period-Instrument Orchestra, Music Director of the Connecticut Early Music Festival, and Associate Conductor of the Handel and Haydn Society.

**Faithful & Forward Capital Campaign**

We have surpassed $3 million in pledges to the capital campaign to support needed work on our church home. Our congregation has generously pledged $3,047,787 so far — amazing! We have already received $526,000 dedicated to the campaign, or 17.2% of the pledged amount. The gifts and pledges received to date are invested in Hancock’s Fidelity account and in Hancock's bank money market account. Gifts of all sizes continue to be welcome.

What's happening now? We have been sending out thank you notes and following up with those we have missed. We are assembling a **Steering Committee** for the next steps of the project and will update you here later in August. We also are looking for grant writing support. Please contact David Zenk if you have experience to share on writing grants.

Our **Building Committee** is meeting and planning with our architect, Don Mills. Joan Rutila chairs the Building Committee which includes Laurie Bergstrom, Wendell Kalsow, Scott Martin, Leanne Rodd, Dean Rutila, Lisle Swanson, and David Zenk. This committee is discussing plans and cost estimates to determine what pieces we can afford. We will seek input from the congregation when we have more information.

**Capital Campaign Pledges and Payments**

We welcome payments to the Faithful & Forward capital campaign in a variety of ways (cash, check, wire transfer, online payment, stock transfer) at any time whether you pledged or didn't pledge. For those who pledged to the capital campaign, pledge payments can now be made. If you are unsure what pledge payment schedule you chose, you can contact Suzie Barry, Director of Operations at: suzie@hancockchurch.org or 781-862-4220 x60.
Thank you to all who attended our Open House on Sunday; it was great to see you. As a follow up, we invite you to come back some Sunday morning during the service to watch us in action. See exactly what happens during a broadcast. Because of limited space, please let Sue Rockwell know what day you would like to come. Contact SueRockwell45@gmail.com. We would love you to come and see us “live.”

**One More Hancock Grills!**

SAVE THE DATE for one more Hancock Grills in the fall on September 27 from 6:00 - 7:30pm at Sara and Will Larsen's house, 181 Concord Ave in Lexington.

Join your Hancock friends for an evening of fun, food and fellowship as we celebrate the warm summer evenings together! Bring your own meat, fish, or veggies to grill and a side dish to share. Lawn chairs or blankets are also recommended. The host family provides a grill, a backyard or deck, paper goods and condiments, and beverages (i.e., lemonade, iced tea, water).

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 781-862-4220.

**Submit Your August Celebrations!**

On the last Sunday of each month, we take time during worship to celebrate anybody who wants to mark a milestone in their life. Whether that be a birthday, an anniversary, retirement, or a promotion, you are welcome to share it with us! Call the church office (781) 862-4220, dial "0", email Jane, Jane@HancockChurch.org, or use the form in the Hancock Weekly.
HANCOCK WORKS AT THE INTERFAITH GARDEN - WANT TO HELP?

The Interfaith Garden grows and delivers 1,700 to 2,000 lbs. of fresh produce a year to the Lexington Food Pantry. Here is a hands-on way to do something about food insecurity in our midst. The garden is conveniently located across from the Lexington Green and is maintained entirely by volunteers working on Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Vegetables are harvested Saturday mornings and delivered directly to the Food Pantry. Roughly twice a month Hancock sends a few volunteers to work at the Garden alongside folks from other faith communities. No experience needed—just a willingness to get your hands dirty.

Check out the upcoming schedule and sign up via the link in the Hancock Weekly. If those dates don’t work or you have any questions, please contact Amy Swanson, Amy.Swanson.Email@gmail.com.

LEXINGTON FOOD PANTRY

Food donations are being collected at the front and back of the church. Please note that expired dates are not accepted. A link to the “Wish List” is posted on the containers at each location. This link is also in the Hancock Weekly.
**Launch Sunday!**  
**Sept. 17**  
Worship @the Well!  
Church School Open House  
Junior Youth Group  
Hancock Youth Group, TBA  

**Music**  
Chancel Choir starts Sept. 7  
Children’s Choir is TBA  
The Hancock Carillon starts Sept. 6  
The Morning Glory Ringers starts Sept. 8  

**Small Groups**  
Raising AntiRacist Kids, Sept. 24  
AntiRacism Small Group, Oct. 8  

**Fellowship**  
Hands On Service Projects, Sept. 24  
Women's Fellowship, Oct. 1  
Men's Fellowship, Oct. 1
**The Week Ahead**

**Sunday, August 13**
9:30am Infant and Toddlercare available  
10:00am Morning Worship and Livestream  
10:15am Church School  
11:00am Fellowship Hour

**Monday, August 14**
Church Office is Closed on Mondays  
9:00am JIE Vocal Music Studio  
12:00pm Hancock Bulletin & Weekly Deadline

**Tuesday, August 15**
9:00am Moderators’ Meeting via Zoom  
9:00am JIE Vocal Music Studio  
10:15am Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, August 16**
9:00am JIE Vocal Music Studio  
12:00pm Hancock Weekly Sent Out

**Thursday, August 17**
9:00am JIE Vocal Music Studio

**Friday, August 18**
9:00am JIE Vocal Music Studio  
1:00pm Bulletin Email Sent Out

**Saturday, August 19**
10:00am AA Meeting in Dining Room  
2:00pm Plaster Posaunes Brass Group

**Sunday, August 20**
9:30am Infant and Toddlercare available  
10:00am Morning Worship and Livestream  
10:15am Church School in CE Wing  
11:00am Fellowship Hour

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**HANCOCK WEEKLY**

Stay updated on Hancock news, events, and volunteer opportunities! Visit hancockchurch.org or scan the QR Code to sign up!

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We welcome all who seek to know God.

We believe that, although we are many members, we are one body in Christ.

We have been called as well as challenged by God to respect and reconcile our differences.

We recognize and love each individual as a child of God.

We welcome, respect, support, and lovingly encourage people of every race, ethnicity, creed, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, and physical and mental ability to join us on our journey of faith.

The faith journey indeed calls Hancock Members not to be silent in the face of prejudice, injustice, and exclusion, but to express our faith, in word and deed, for justice and inclusiveness for all humanity.

As Paul wrote in Galatians, “In Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for all are one...”

www.hancockchurch.org

Barbara Callaghan (she/her)
Senior Minister on sabbatical leave

Sue Remick (she/her)
Sabbatical Leave Minister
sue@hancockchurch.org

David C Clark (he/him)
Second Minister
david@hancockchurch.org

Rachel Barton (she/her)
Minister for Congregational Life
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Katie Elliott (she/her)
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Jane Park (she/her)
Church Administrator
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For bulletin announcements, corrections, or suggestions, email office@hancockchurch.org
To conserve trees and your pledge dollars, consider sharing your bulletin. Please recycle.
"May the Lord Bless you and Keep you, bringing you joy for your days and peace for your nights! My sincerest gratitude to God for the opportunity to serve here at Hancock Church. It has been a true honor, one that I will hold dear."

Sue Remick