

LITURGY OF THE WORD
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 ∞ LAUNCH SUNDAY



COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEBASTOPOL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1000 Gravenstein Hwy North ∞ 707.823.2484 ∞ www.uccseb.org

CHORAL PRELUDE

Halala S'yan'bongela

– Trad. isiZulu

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SINGING BOWL

3 Rings: Creator, Redeemer & Sustainer

LAUNCH SUNDAY OPENING PRAYER

One: You who call the worlds into being, here we are with hands and hearts wide open, knowing we must depend upon your holy presence and fierce love if we are to flourish together as a community.

Many: You have carefully tended us from that summer day in 1889 when 19 people declared themselves a church.

One: Through many dangers, toils, and snares, we have arrived at the present moment, grateful for the gifts we have received – a beautiful facility, a faithful community, and a purposeful ministry.

Many: Bless us this year as we begin a new chapter in the life of our congregation, leaning into the future with faith, hope, and love.

One: Make us into your generous people who give of ourselves in grateful response to all that you have done.

Many: In the strong name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

See insert, vv. 1 - 3

* POEM OF CONFESSION

– Wendell Berry, 1934–2026

One: Hate has no world. The people of hate must try to possess the world of love, for it is the only world; it is Heaven and Earth.

Many: But as lonely, eager hate possesses it; it disappears; it never did exist, and hate must seek another world that love has made...

* SILENT PRAYER / ASSURANCE OF GRACE

* PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you: **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Tirza Dawn

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

ending with *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin'dom come...

* HYMN *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* See insert

SCRIPTURE READING *Exodus 14: 19 – 31* Pew Bible, OT, p. 61

SERMON *Ambivalent Deliverance* Pastor Benjamin

ORGAN INTERLUDE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Alena Basso

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Lean on Me* – Bill Withers

* DOXOLOGY Tune: *Old Hundredth*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Feasting on the Word

One: O God, we thank you for these gifts.

Many: Multiply them, and enable the work of love and the justice of your peaceful kin'dom in the world. We thank and praise you. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***CLOSING HYMN** *In the Midst of New Dimensions* See insert, vv. 4 & 5

*** BENEDICTION** **Ross Pimentel**

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Following worship, all are invited to Kinship Time in the Bell Tower Courtyard and, when the bell rings, to Faith Formation Hour.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Ushers Steve Reid (Lead),
Jeff Boal & Reena Burton
Organ Karna Roa
Ensemble Music Chancel Choir
Choir Director Andy DelMonte
Liturgists Alena Basso, Tirza Dawn
& Ross Pimentel
Preacher Pastor Benjamin
Tech Team Ainsley & Eliana Curtis
Chancel Flowers Sheina Curtis

STAFF TEAM

Lead Minister Rev. Dr. Benjamin Broadbent
Congregational Administrator Joy Richards
Faith Formation Coordinator Tirza Dawn
Digital Ministry/Visitation Intern Ross Pimentel
Choral Director Andy DelMonte
Keyboardist Tim Imbach
Handbell Director Karna Roa
Custodian Paul Louden



Our mission is to worship God and share the love of Jesus Christ,
teaching the message of Jesus to all ages and putting our faith into action.



An Open & Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ.



A Sanctuary congregation in the Sonoma County Sanctuary Coalition.



Flowers sponsored by **Dawson & Emily Bell**:
Happy birthday, **Kathy Bell**, aka "Groovy Grandma!"