

September 30, 2007  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Meditation

*God, take me by Your hand, I shall follow You dutifully, and not resist too much. I shall evade none of the tempests life has in store for me, I shall try to face it all as best I can. But now and then grant me a short respite. I shall never again assume, in my innocence, that any peace that comes my way will be eternal. I shall accept all the inevitable tumult and struggle. I delight in warmth and security, but I shall not rebel if I have to suffer cold, should You so decree. I shall follow wherever Your hand leads me and I shall try not to be afraid.*

*Etty Hillesum, Etty: A Diary 1941-43*

Gathering in the Spirit to Worship the Living God

GATHERING and WELCOME

PRELUDE "Sanctus" David Payton

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Words of Rev. Thom M. Shuman

The word has come for us from God:

**who promises to shelter us under the wings of hope and grace.**

The word has come to us from Jesus:

**who encourages us to remember the good news we have received.**

The word has come from the Spirit:

**who reminds us to place our hope and trust in God.**

\*SINGING "I Will Call Upon the Lord" FWS No. 2002

CALL TO RECONCILIATION Words of Rev. Thom M. Shuman

In God's presence, our lives are exposed, our words are shown for their hollowness, our need is revealed. Let us confess who we are, as we ask God to embrace us with grace and hope.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We need to confess, God of Abraham and Lazarus, how often we are not content with the simple gifts and lives you offer. Tempted by wealth, we can become insensitive to those who have nothing. Encouraged by the world to accumulate more, we may miss the chance to gather your goodness and**

*\*All who are able, please stand.*

**godliness. Chasing after everything that has no value, we may not have the energy to pursue the faith, the love, the gentleness you have for us.**

**Forgive us, God of Reversals. Help us to remember how you have redeemed us, and in remembering, may we make that good confession that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, now and forever.**

SILENT MEDITATION

ASSURANCE

This is the good news that comes from God: I will hear your prayers, I will answer with hope and peace, I will deliver you from your sins.

**God has covered us with grace; under God's hope we will find shelter. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S TIME

Listening for Good News

ANTHEM "Grace Flows Down"  
with "Grace Greater Than Our Sin" David Dickey, Tenor

EPISTLE LESSON 1 Timothy 6:6-19

RECEIVING PRAYER REQUESTS

CENTERING SONG "Spirit of the Living God" No. 393

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 16:19-31

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

\*SINGING

"When the Church of Jesus"

No. 592

SERMON

"Living in Denial"

The Rev. Linda Shevlin

OFFERTORY

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Hannah Blanchette, Clarinet

\*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\*SINGING

"The Summons"

FWS No. 2130

\*SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

"Postlude in B-Flat"

Joseph Prentiss

HOLY COMMUNION *A brief communion service at the altar rail for any who desire*

Liturgist: Jeanne Sutcliffe

Please join our *Meet and Greet* time in Fellowship Hall following Worship Service!

*We hope you'll want to take your Bulletins home, but if not please remember to put them in the recycle bin.*

## Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church

604 Seven Mile Road

Hope, Rhode Island 02831



Phone: (401) 821-8217

Fax: (401) 826-7787

E-mail: [office@sovumc.org](mailto:office@sovumc.org)

Website: [www.sovumc.org](http://www.sovumc.org)

Rev. Linda Shevlin, Guest Pastor

Rev. Edward Farrell-Starbuck, Pastor

Susan Markham, Music Director

Donna Faria, Mark Lyman and Chris Taylor, Lay Leaders

Worship and Sunday School at 9:30 AM

Pamela Etheridge, Church Secretary

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON