

Order of Service at the United Reformed Church
September 13, 2026 9:30 am
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

APPROACHING GOD

Prelude Prayer Kreutzer

Word for 2026: Practice.
People: May we practice becoming.

Salutation
Grace and peace from God the Father and Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Call to Worship
Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem and continued on the way.
We come to worship the God who calls us forward.
The way may challenge what we know, what we prefer, and what we would choose.
Still, we desire to follow the way of Jesus.
When anger tempts us toward destruction, Christ calls us to another way.
When comfort tempts us to remain where we are, Christ calls us forward.
So let us turn our hearts toward God and set our faces toward the way of Christ.
We are here. We are listening. We are ready to follow. Let us worship God.

*Opening Hymn (Projection) I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Call to Confession
Following Jesus does not mean we always understand Jesus. Sometimes, like the disciples, we confuse our anger with righteousness, our preferences with faithfulness, and our way with God's way. Confession gives us the courage to recognize the difference. Trusting the mercy of God, let us confess together.

Prayer of Confession
God of mercy, we confess that we have sometimes wanted you to bless what you were trying to change in us. We have mistaken retaliation for justice, certainty for faithfulness, and proximity to Jesus for becoming like Jesus. We say we will follow, yet hesitate when the road becomes difficult. We place conditions on our

obedience and look backward when you are calling us forward. Forgive us. Turn us again toward the way of Christ. Free us from the need to destroy what we do not understand. Give us courage to release what keeps us from following, and shape our lives until our ways resemble yours. Amen. (a moment for silent confession)

Words of Assurance
Hear the good news: Jesus did not abandon the disciples when they got it wrong. He rebuked what needed correcting and continued with them on the journey.
God's grace meets us in our missteps, redirects our feet, and gives us another opportunity to follow.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and called forward.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing the Peace
The peace of Christ be with you! And also with you.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation I Say by Lauren Daigle/Nancy Tanis, solo
*Please remain seating
Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Reading Luke 9:51-62

The Word of God, for the People of God!
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

RESPONDING TO GOD

Offertory "The Lord's My Shepherd" arr. L. Larson/J. Kunick
(The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,
He makes me down to lie in pastures green,
He leadeth me the quiet waters by.)
Elizabeth Hyde, flute

*Doxology Tune (Old Hundreth)
*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH OF CLIFTON
SUNDAY WORSHIP
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026