



Faith, Freedom, and Community

A Service of Worship
for Our Nation's 250th Year

July 5, 2026

9:15 A.M.



**Isle of Hope
United Methodist Church**

*Cultivating Community by Uniting in
Purpose and Serving in Love.*

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

GATHERING MUSIC

Anchor Band

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me
CityAlight

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Meg Procopio

+THE OPENING HYMN

No. 698

God of the Ages
NATIONAL HYMN

+THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Procopio

We believe in God, the Author of Liberty, who has created all people in the divine image and endowed them with sacred worth.

We give thanks for the heritage of freedom we enjoy in this land, and for all who have labored, sacrificed, and served the common good through the generations.

We believe that true freedom is not merely the absence of restraint, but the power to live faithfully, to seek righteousness, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We remember that Christ has set us free to live in the fullness of God's love. Therefore, we will not use our freedom for ourselves alone, but through love we will serve one another.

We believe that the Holy Spirit calls us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. We commit ourselves to being peacemakers in our communities and in our world, striving for unity, caring for the vulnerable, and seeking the flourishing of all people.

As citizens of both an earthly nation and a heavenly kingdom, we will pray for our leaders, our communities, and our world, trusting God's grace to guide us as salt and light in a changing age.

And we remember that where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are free indeed.

Amen.

A Word of Welcome

We are glad you are here! Whether you are a long-time member or a first-time guest, we pray this time of worship draws you closer to God.

Please note our worship locations: we gather in the Sanctuary on the first, third, and fifth Sundays, and in the Ministry Center on the second and fourth Sundays. No matter the space, the Spirit meets us there!

Welcome to Isle of Hope United Methodist Church!

About Today's Service

As our nation marks 250 years of history, today's service offers an opportunity to reflect on the gifts of community, freedom, and shared responsibility through the lens of Christian faith.

Through scripture, prayer, music, and the voices of leaders and poets who have shaped our common life, we give thanks for the blessings we have received while considering the work still before us. Along the way, we are reminded that our highest calling is to love our neighbors, seek justice, practice mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Above all, this service affirms that our ultimate hope rests not in human achievement, but in the grace of God — a grace that heals, reconciles, and calls us forward together.

+ indicates that the congregation will stand.

+THE GLORIA PATRI
No. 70

Glory Be to the Father
MEINEKE

+THE GREETING

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN

Dr. Frank Parr

Children are invited to return and sit with their parents to enjoy this special service.

+THE HYMN

No. 697

My Country 'Tis of Thee
AMERICA

GRATITUDE AND COMMON LIFE

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Procopio

Psalm 100:1-5

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

AN EXCERPT FROM THE SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Rev. Josh Roberts

THE ANTHEM

Isle of Hope Choir; Greg Smith, tenor

The Road Home
Stephen Paulus

*Tell me where is the road I can call my own,
That I left, that I lost, so long ago?
All these years I have wandered,
Oh, when will know
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me home?*

*After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,
Through the air there's a calling
from far away,
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.*

*Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call,
with the love in your heart as the only song;
There is no such beauty as where you belong:
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.*

About the Children's Message

The Message to the Children is a brief reflection designed especially for our youngest worshipers, helping them connect the stories of scripture with everyday life and faith.

Lincoln's Call to Reconciliation

Delivered on March 4, 1865, just weeks before the end of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address is widely regarded as one of the most important speeches in American history. Rather than celebrating victory or assigning blame, Lincoln called the nation toward healing, humility, and a renewed commitment to the common good.

The excerpt shared in today's service reminds us that lasting peace is built not through triumph over one another, but through charity, compassion, and the difficult work of reconciliation.

About the Anthem

Composed by Stephen Paulus (1949-2014), 'The Road Home' has become one of the most beloved choral works of the modern era. Set to a traditional American folk melody, the anthem reflects on life's journey and the longing for a place of peace, belonging, and rest.

The piece gained national recognition when it was sung at the state funerals of Presidents Ronald Reagan (2004) and Gerald Ford (2007).

'The Road Home' reminds us that healing and reconciliation are not destinations we reach alone. Rather, they are part of a shared journey — one guided by hope, sustained by community, and ultimately leading us toward God's abiding presence.

**Langston Hughes and
the American Dream**

Langston Hughes (1902-1967) was one of the leading voices of the Harlem Renaissance, a literary and artistic movement that celebrated African-American culture and experience. Throughout his life, Hughes used poetry to explore themes of identity, freedom, dignity, and hope.

In 'Let America Be America Again,' Hughes reflects on the gap between the nation's highest ideals and the realities experienced by many of its citizens. Yet even as he speaks honestly about disappointment and injustice, he continues to hold onto hope for a more just and generous future.

His words remind us that love of country is not merely gratitude for what has been, but also a commitment to what might yet be.

About the Hymn

Written by British diplomat and scholar Sir Cecil Spring Rice (1859-1918) and paired with Gustav Holst's majestic tune 'Thaxted,' this beloved hymn reflects on the relationship between earthly loyalty and spiritual devotion.

While the first verse speaks of love for one's country, the second points beyond every nation to the Kingdom of God – 'another country' known through faith, where peace, justice, and mercy reign.

Placed alongside today's reading from Galatians, the hymn reminds us that our love for neighbor, our commitment to the common good, and our responsibilities as citizens are ultimately shaped by our identity as citizens of God's Kingdom.

FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Procopio

Galatians 5:13-14

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

AN EXCERPT FROM THE WRITINGS OF LANGSTON HUGHES

Rev. Roberts

'Let America Be America Again'

+THE HYMN

I Vow to Thee, My Country
THAXTED



I__ vow to thee my coun-try, all earth-ly things a - bove, en - tire and whole and
And there's an-oth - er coun-try, I've heard of long a - go, most dear to them that



per - fect, the ser-vice of my love: the__ love that asks no ques-tion, the__
love__ her, most great to them that know; we__ may not count her ar - mies, we__



love that stands the test, that__ lays up-on the al - tar the dear-est and the
may not see her King; her__ for-tress is a faithful heart, her pride is suf - fer -



best; the__ love that ne - ver fal - ters, the love that pays the price, the__
ing; and__ soul by soul and si-lent-ly her shin-ing bounds in - crease, and her



love that makes un - daun - ted the fi - nal sa - cri - fice.
ways are ways of gen - tle - ness and all her paths are peace.

JUSTICE AND MERCY AND THE WORK STILL BEFORE US

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Procopio

Micah 6:8

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

WORDS OF REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Rev. Roberts

THE ANTHEM

Isle of Hope Choir

I Lift My Lamp
Gwyneth Walker

*When I was hungry, did you feed me?
When I was shivering, did you bring me clothes?
When I was thirsty, did you bring me water?
When I was homeless, did you give a home?
When I was fearful, did you give protection?
When I was injured, did you offer care?
When I was threatened, did you stand for justice?
And when imprisoned, keep a vigil there?*

*O my sisters! O my brothers!
If you do this for the least of these, you do this for me...
with God in your heart...*

*Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
the wretched refuse of your teeming shore.*

Send these the homeless, the homeless tempest tossed to me.

*I lift my lamp, I lift my lamp,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!
O my sisters, with God in your heart.*

*-Text: Matthew 25:35-40
Emma Lazarus - 'The New Colossus'*

THE MORNING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Procopio

+THE HYMN

No. 696

America the Beautiful
MATERNA

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) was a Baptist pastor, theologian, and leader of the Civil Rights Movement. Inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the witness of the prophets, he called the nation to pursue justice through nonviolence, reconciliation, and love.

The words shared in today's service reflect King's conviction that communities flourish when people recognize their shared humanity and work together for the common good. His vision of justice was never rooted in division, but in the hope of a beloved community marked by dignity, equality, and peace.

About the Anthem

Composer Gwyneth Walker's 'I Lift My Lamp' weaves together portions of Emma Lazarus' 1883 poem 'The New Colossus' with Jesus' words from Matthew 25:35-40: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'

Best known for its inscription on the Statue of Liberty, Lazarus' poem offers a vision of welcome, refuge, and hope. Walker's setting deepens that vision by placing it alongside Christ's call to recognize his presence in those who are hungry, thirsty, lonely, or in need of compassion.

Following today's readings from Micah and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the anthem reminds us that justice and mercy are not merely ideals to admire, but practices to embody. Its message invites us to see one another not as strangers, but as neighbors, and to encounter Christ in the faces of those we are called to love and serve.

Maya Angelou and Our Shared Humanity

Poet, author, educator, and activist Maya Angelou (1928-2014) spent her life exploring themes of identity, resilience, dignity, and hope. Her writings challenged readers to see both the beauty and complexity of the human experience. Throughout her life, she called people toward greater understanding, compassion, and hope.

Her observation that ‘we are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike’ serves as a fitting reminder that our lives are deeply interconnected. As today’s service concludes, her words point us toward the grace that binds us together and calls us forward in faith, hope, and love.

About the Anthem

Few hymns have spoken to the human experience as powerfully or enduringly as ‘Amazing Grace.’ Written by English clergyman John Newton in 1772, its simple message of God’s redeeming love has offered comfort, hope, and assurance to generations of believers.

This setting by Mack Wilberg, former music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, combines the familiar hymn with the haunting sound of the bagpipes and snare drum, creating a musical expression of remembrance, gratitude, and hope.

As today’s service concludes, ‘Amazing Grace’ reminds us that beyond every achievement and every challenge, beyond every joy and every sorrow, it is ultimately God’s grace that sustains us, reconciles us, and leads us home.

+A LITANY FOR THE YEARS AHEAD

Rev. Roberts

As we mark this moment in our nation’s history, we give thanks for those who came before us, whose courage, sacrifice, and vision helped shape the communities we now call home.

With gratitude for the past, we look to the future with hope.

For the next 250 years, may we be a people who value truth more than convenience, wisdom more than rhetoric, and character more than power.

For this we pray.

May we be a nation where mercy tempers judgment, compassion overcomes fear, and neighbors care for one another.

For this we pray.

May we welcome the stranger, protect the vulnerable, and work for the common good.

For this we pray.

May future generations inherit communities marked by peace, opportunity, and hope.

For this we pray.

And may we never forget that our ultimate hope rests not in human achievement, but in the God whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

May God’s grace guide us, now and in the years to come. Amen.

GRACE FOR THE JOURNEY

Rev. Roberts

Words of Maya Angelou

THE ANTHEM

*Isle of Hope Choir
Chuck Bohannon, Bagpipes
Chris Fullerton, Snare Drum
Kathy Smith, Organ
Marla Williamson, Piano*

*Amazing Grace
Mack Wilberg*

*The text may be found on the next page.
The congregation is invited to sing the final stanza as directed.*

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.*

*I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*

*The Lord has promised good to me.
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.*

THE BENEDICTION

Rev. Roberts

THE POSTLUDE

*Chuck Bohannon, Bagpipes
Rev. Jared Wilson, Organ*

*Highland Cathedral
Michael Korb & Ulrich Roever*

The congregation is invited to remain seated during the Postlude.

*Sympathies to Carla, Kimberlee, and Ross Beall on the death of their
mother-in-law, grandmother, and our church member, Mary Beall, who
died on June 27th.*

*Sympathies to Cynthia Cradduck and family on the death of her
grandfather, and our church member, Noel Wright, who died on June 30th.*

Acolyte:
Elizabeth Roberts

Crucifer:
James Roberts

*Today's service was designed and
written by Rev. Jared Wilson for
the congregation of Isle of Hope
United Methodist Church -
Savannah, Georgia - and in
celebration of the 250th anniversary
of The United States of America.
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WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, July 5, 2026

9:15 AM - Worship Service

10:30 AM - Jammin' July: Good Dirt

10:30 AM - Student Ministries Breakfast Club

Monday, July 6, 2026

Church Office Closed (in observance of July 4th)

11:00 AM - Meals on Wheels

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

10:00 AM - Care Partners Support Group

10:00 AM - Hope Arbor

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

10:00 AM - Hope Arbor

11:00 AM - Meals On Wheels

1:00 PM - Stephen Ministry

1:00 PM - Mahjongg for Fun

5:15 PM - Stephen Ministry

5:30 PM - Prayer Meeting

5:30 PM - Students Tie Dye & Chill Vibes Night

Thursday, July 9, 2026

10:00 AM - Hope Arbor

6:30 PM - Anchor Band Rehearsal

Friday, July 10, 2026

All Day - Church Office Closed

11:00 AM - Meals On Wheels

Saturday, July 11, 2026

8:30 AM - SonRise Servers

CONNECT WITH US

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today. Scan the QR code to let us know you're here, tell us more about yourself, learn about our upcoming events, and give online.



WAYS TO GIVE

Giving is an essential part of worship—an act of love that shapes our hearts as much as it supports the work God is doing. Here are ways you can support His work through IOHUMC:

- **Mobile:** Text "GIVE" to 855-712-6960
- **Online:** Scan the QR code above
- **In-Person:** On Sunday mornings, place your gift in the plate that is passed or in one of the designated boxes

You can also give through the mail, online with recurring transactions, with Required IRA Distributions, and by giving stock. Visit iohumc.com or contact Marla Grady at mgrady@iohumc.com for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is offered for adults, youth, and children at 10:30 am every Sunday. Sunday School is a time of Bible study and fellowship for all ages, and acts as a community group for adults. All are welcome and encouraged to join!

Adult Sunday School Classes

Seekers

SALT

New Horizons

Good News

Sisters of Strength

Children & Youth

Sunday School Classes

Student Ministries Breakfast Club

Club

Hope Kids

Hope Kids Choir



To help extend our worshipping community, our services are livestreamed and recorded; those present may appear in the video.

Pastoral Care Response*

Rev. Josh Roberts - 770-891-2578
Rev. Meg Procopio - 912-663-5512
Rev. Jared Wilson - 931-624-1418

*If you are in need of a pastor due to hospitalization, death in the family, or other emergency.