



Haslett Community Church  
United Church of Christ

Sunday, September 3, 2023  
10:00 AM

*We strive joyfully and prayerfully to warmly welcome all, freely share our blessings, and humbly explore God's love.*

[haslettcommunitychurch.org](https://haslettcommunitychurch.org)

P.O. Box 217 · 1427 Haslett Rd.  
Haslett, MI 48840

517.339.8383

[hcc1@att.net](mailto:hcc1@att.net)

**We strive to ensure that all are comfortable worshipping with us.** Therefore, we:

- Offer three ways to worship: in our Sanctuary, from your car in our south lot (radio to 88.7 FM - turn up your volume) and via livestream (see website for details).
- Provide large print worship bulletins and hearing assist receivers in the sanctuary upon request – an usher would be happy to help you
- Have a building that is barrier free with accessible restrooms. Gender neutral bathrooms are downstairs and are accessible by stairs and elevator.
- Are an Open & Affirming Church which means we welcome and affirm persons of every gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, age, race, nationality, economic status, faith background, marital status, or family structure.

**Three Ways to Worship**  
Sundays at 10:00 am



1. In person
2. Parking lot (car radio on 88.7FM)
3. Remotely (via YouTube)

**The church office is open for On-site Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am - 1:00pm.**

**Pastor Betsy is in the office Tue-Fri. Appointments recommended, or come for her drop-in office hours on Wednesdays from 11:30am - 1:00pm.**

We love to see you, so please stop by!

Your staff continues to be available to serve you by email and phone outside these on-site hours as well.

**We welcome families and households of every size and age and want children to know they are welcome here.** Therefore, we:

- Don't mind when children wiggle and make noise in church-your whole family is welcome here! We also have nursery care downstairs staffed by safety-trained volunteers.
- Have preschool through 5th Graders begin each week in worship, and then offer Sunday School following the Children's Moment most weeks
- Have vibrant and active middle and high school youth groups for 6th-12th graders

Our Vision:

*We strive joyfully and prayerfully to warmly welcome all, freely share our blessings,  
and humbly explore God's love.*

## **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 3, 2023 10:00 am**

*When you see an \*, you are invited to stand as you are able. When text is in bold, you are invited to speak aloud.*

**For Your Meditation** *"God's intended world is a world without any oppressive and dehumanizing powers." – Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, "Revelation: Vision of a Just World"*

### **Gathering Music**

#### **Welcome**

#### **Prelude**

"Earth and All Stars"

Johnson

### **Call to Worship**

The church strives to be the church that lives into God's future today.

**A church united across space and time.**

A church of many races, languages and ethnicities.

**A church that lives by the work of God in Christ  
that was, is now, and is still to come.**

The one who is seated on the throne says to us:

"See, I am making all things new!"

**A new heaven and a new earth,  
where the home of God is among God's people.**

God's future is epic, and it's good news.

**We come to remember God's future, for this is our story!**

#### **\* Hymn #22**

"Sing Praise to God Who Has Shaped"  
(verses 1,3, & 4)

Neander  
LOBE DEN HERREN

### **Prayer of Approach** (by Peter Graystone)

**I dare to pray: Lord, let the world be changed,**

**For I long to see the end of poverty;**

**I dare to pray: Lord, let the rules be changed,**

*(continued...)*

For I long to see our economic structures bring justice to the poor;  
I dare to pray: Lord, let my life be changed,  
For I long to bring hope where the Good News is needed.

In the strength of your spirit  
And inspired by your compassion,  
Might we work together for change,  
And wait confidently for the day  
When you make all things new  
And those that weep will rejoice. Amen.

### Moment of Quiet Reflection

#### Hymn Response #13

“O My Soul Bless Your Creator”

Anon./STUTT GART



1 O my soul, bless your Cre - a - tor; all with-in me bless God's name;



Bless your Mak - er, and for-get not all God's mer - cies to pro-claim.

#### First Scripture Reading

Revelation 1: 4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him,

and all the tribes of the earth will wail  
on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

## Special Music

## Favorite Hymns

### \* Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you;  
**And also with you.**

## Second Scripture Reading

**Revelation 21: 1-6, 22: 1-5**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

## Sermon

“Revealing Revelation”

### \* Hymn #597

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Lowry

## Announcements

## Invitation to Support the Church We Love

### Offertory

#### \* Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ all creatures here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.

### 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.*

#### \* Benediction

### Postlude



*After worship, you are invited to join us for Coffee Hour in Friendship Hall.*

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We worship every Sunday at 10:00 am, and you are welcome to join us.

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**Kick-off Sunday  
and Chicken Barbecue!  
September 10, 2023**

**The fun begins at 10 a.m.  
Everyone is invited!**

Haslett Community Church  
United Church of Christ  
haslettcommunitychurch.org

Thank you for continuing to support Haslett Community Church as you are able. We receive your gifts with gratitude. We have some no-touch options to help make your giving easy and safe:

- Use your phone camera to scan the QR code to access our Online Giving.
- Text GIVE to our secure giving number: 517-200-3995



We are so grateful for your generosity!

**Ministry Connections**  
**Reaching Out to Each Other and Our Community**  
**September 3, 2023**



We heartily welcome all to our service of worship.

May the comfort and challenge of God's loving presence renew and inspire you this morning and throughout the coming week.



Follow us on Facebook  
 Haslett Community Church

**CHURCH CALENDAR (September 3 - September 10)**

<b>Sunday</b> 9/3/2023	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Worship (S, PL, Online) Coffee Fellowship (Fr)
<b>Monday</b> 9/4/2023		Happy Labor Day! Staff Day Off
<b>Tuesday</b> 9/5/2023	9:45 AM 10:30 AM - 1PM	Staff Meeting (FH) Onsite Office Hours (Ofc)
<b>Wednesday</b> 9/6/2023	11:30 AM - 1PM 2:30 - 5:00 PM 7:00 - 8:30 PM	Betsy Onsite Ofc Hours (Ofc) Youth Room Prep (YR) Choir Rehearsal (CR)
<b>Thursday</b> 9/7/2023	10:30 AM - 1PM 6:00 PM	Onsite Office Hours (Ofc) Haslett Women's Club (Fr)
<b>Saturday</b> 9/9/2023	9:00 AM	Men's Group Meets (Z)
<b>Sunday</b> 9/10/2023	10:00 AM 10:00 AM Noon 5:30 - 7:00 PM 7:00 - 8:00 PM	Worship (S, PL, Online) Sunday School (SS) Chicken BBQ (FH, Fr, K, OD1) YOUTH: Shaving Cream Wiffle-Ball Night (OD1) YOUTH: HS Youth Grp (YR)

**Legend:** CR=Choir Rm; Edge=Edgewood UCC; FH= Fellowship Hall; Fr = Friendship Hall; L=Library; OD1= Door1; Ofc=HCC Office; K=Kitchen; PL=Parking Lot; S=Sanctuary; SS=Sunday School Rooms (downstairs); YR=Youth Rm; Z=Zoom

**Haslett Community Church welcomes You!**

If you are visiting, please take a purple dove cup with a sweet treat and helpful information on your way out!

We worship every Sunday at 10:00 am.

**PLEASE Help Feed Haslett Students!!!**

Drivers are needed to pick up and deliver around 50 bags of food total to the 5 schools in the Haslett area, so roughly 10 bags per school. The food is designed to help sustain families through their weekend needs. Pick up site is the new Greater Lansing Food Bank warehouse in Bath.

Delivery would be to Wilkshire, Ralya, Murphy, Haslett Middle, and Haslett High schools. Total time 1-1.5hrs. and would need to be completed prior to 12:00 noon. Please contact Jim Durr 517-574-9491 if you are interested.



**Double Your Donation – Double Your Impact on Sept. 9, at the Bath Meijer!**

The Mary L. Nelson Memorial Haslett Food Pantry is the recipient of the Bath Meijer "Simply Give" Campaign through Saturday, September 30.

**ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, DONATIONS GO TWICE AS FAR because it's a DOUBLE MATCH DAY!** For example, if you make a \$10 Simply Give donation at the register AT THE BATH MEIJER (7157 E. Saginaw St.), Meijer makes a DOUBLE MATCH of \$20, resulting in a \$30 donation to the food pantry!!



**NURSERY CARE** is offered every Sunday for children from birth through age 3 (and potty-trained).

Nursery volunteers work on rotating teams who serve two weeks in a row every 6-8 weeks. If you're interested in serving on a nursery team, please contact Pastor Erin ([erin.heisler@att.net](mailto:erin.heisler@att.net)).

**The Staff:**

Rev. Betsy Aho	Pastor	<a href="mailto:aho.betsy@att.net">aho.betsy@att.net</a>	517.339.8383 x11
Rev. Erin Heisler	Minister for Youth & Children	<a href="mailto:erin.heisler@att.net">erin.heisler@att.net</a>	517.339.8383 x19
Barbara Freeman	Church Musician		517.881.9976
Michele Booher	Office Manager	<a href="mailto:hcc1@att.net">hcc1@att.net</a>	517.339.8383 x10
Sally Sanchez	Custodian		

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**Our thanks this morning to:**

<b>Reader:</b>	David Arnosti
<b>Greeters:</b>	Lucretia Hildabridle & Liz Newport
<b>Ushers:</b>	Mary Trebilcock & Sylvia Davis
<b>Coffee Hosts:</b>	Becky & Larry Leefers
<b>Audio/Visual Techs:</b>	Jon Lineberry
<b>Tellers</b>	Jim Durr & Rachel Bullock

*Sanctuary flowers today are donated by Menetta Kass.*

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**Thank you for worshipping with us! If you are visiting, or would like to know more about Haslett Community Church, you are invited to:**

- Take a “Purple Dove Cup” for your household on your way out – it has some helpful info and a treat inside.
- Fill out a “Welcome!” card available in the seat in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher so that we might be in touch with you in the ways you indicate would be helpful.
- Ask questions if you have them; our Pastors, ushers, and the people sitting around you are great sources of information and are happy to help you feel comfortable here.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome at Haslett Community Church where we strive to welcome everyone with the same unconditional hospitality demonstrated by the love of God in Christ for all people.



1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -  
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -  
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -  
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -  
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from  
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -  
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - joice— or - gan and  
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are  
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly  
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.  
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?  
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.  
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Düsseldorf, Germany. This was the most familiar of his fifty-six hymn texts, which were published along with many of his original tunes in 1680, the year of his death.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.  
 Erneuerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665  
 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

(Back)

# Shall We Gather at the River

597

Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



## Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,



Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.



Written during a time when an epidemic was claiming many lives in New York, Robert Lowry's hymn raised the question "Shall we meet again?" Lowry was pastor at Hanson Place Baptist Church in Brooklyn from 1861 to 1869, and collaborated on numerous hymn collections with William H. Doane.

Tune: HANSON PLACE 8.7.8.7. with refrain  
Robert Lowry, 1864

(Back)