

**Crawford Memorial United Methodist Church  
Ascension Sunday, May 17, 2026**

*Childcare is available in the nursery for children under the age of 5.  
† Please rise in body or in spirit.*

**Prelude** .....Helena Veranian

**Welcome** .....Rev. Anne Robertson

**Introit** ..... Create in Me a Clean Heart.....Chancel Choir

† **Call to Worship** .....Psalm 16:7-11 .....Neil Cudmore

The light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light.

**God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them unto the Lord.**

† **Hymn**..... And Can It Be That I Should Gain .....363

1. And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood!  
Died He for me? who caused His pain! For me? who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
2. 'Tis mystery all: th'Immortal dies! Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries to sound the depths of love divine!  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore; Let angel minds inquire no more.  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore, Let angel minds inquire no more.
3. He left His Father's throne above, (so free, so infinite His grace!),  
emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race:  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free for, O my God, it found out me!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free, For, O my God, it found out me!
4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was free I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.  
My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
5. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Bold I approach the eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

**Morning Prayer**.....Psalm 51:1-17 .....Read in Unison

- 1 **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**
- 2 **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**
- 4 **Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgement.**

- 5 **Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.**
- 6 **You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**
- 7 **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
- 8 **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**
- 9 **Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**
- 10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**
- 11 **Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**
- 12 **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**
- 13 **Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**
- 14 **Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**
- 15 **O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**
- 16 **For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt-offering, you would not be pleased.**
- 17 **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

† **Gospel Lesson**.....Matthew 18:21-35..... Neil Cudmore  
**Sermon** .....The Gift of Forgiveness .....Rev. Anne Robertson  
**Anthem**.....Your Grace Still Amazes Me .....Chancel Choir

**Verse 1**

My faithful Father enduring Friend  
 Your tender mercy's like a river with no end  
 It overwhelms me covers my sin  
 Each time I come into Your presence  
 I stand in wonder once again

**Chorus**

Your grace still amazes me  
 Your love is still a mystery  
 Each day I fall on my knees  
 Cause your grace still amazes me  
 Your grace still amazes me

**Verse 2**

Oh patient Savior You make me whole  
 You are the Author and the Healer of my soul  
 What can I give You Lord what can I say  
 I know there's no way to re-pay You  
 Only to offer You my praise

**Bridge**

It's deeper, it's wider  
 It's stronger, it's higher  
 It's deeper, it's wider  
 It's stronger, it's higher  
 Than anything my eyes can see.  
 You're grace still amazes me

**Passing the Peace**

† **Hymn**..... God, How Can We Forgive .....2169

- 1. God, how can we forgive when bonds of love are torn? How can we rise and start anew, our trust report?  
 When human loving fails and every hope is gone,your love gives strength beyond our own to face the dawn.
- 2. When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow, how can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?  
 The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs. A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.
- 3. Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin, when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?  
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live. As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

Joys and Concerns .....Rev. Anne Robertson

**Silent Prayer**

Pastoral Prayer.....Rev. Anne Robertson

**Lord’s Prayer:**

**Our Father (Maker), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom (kin-dom) 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.**

**Prayer Response**.....Change My Heart, O God.....2152

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.  
You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.  
Change my heart, O God, make it ever true. Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

**Benediction**.....Rev. Anne Robertson

† **Sung Benediction**..... Amazing Grace .....378 (v. 1-3, 6)

1. 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.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
6. 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 first begun.

**Announcements**

**Postlude** .....Helena Veranian

*Please remain seated during the postlude, then join us in Gifford Hall for fellowship during Coffee Hour.*

## Options for Giving

Friends and members are asked to prayerfully consider giving in support of Crawford's ministries and operations. We invite you to bring your offerings with you to church. Or you can mail a check to 34 Dix St., Winchester, MA 01890. Mail is checked daily. We welcome online giving through our website at [crawfordmethodist.org/give](http://crawfordmethodist.org/give).

## Coffee Hour

Each week Coffee Hour is served by a team organized alphabetically by last name. Everyone is encouraged to join our Coffee Hour teams. Next week, 5/24, families with last names beginning **H - LA** will be responsible for Coffee Hour.

## Our Staff

Minister.....	Rev. Anne Robertson
Music Director .....	James Gutierrez
Organist/Pianist.....	Helena Veranian
Sexton/Custodian.....	Jose Deleon
Nursery Manager.....	Cindy Slack
Treasurer .....	Doug Marmon
Technical Production and Streaming Manager .....	Robert McAlpine
Church Administrator .....	Stacey Hilliard

Pastor Robertson is available Tuesday through Sunday by appointment, or at any time in the event of an emergency. The church office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9 to 3, and at other times by appointment. Voice mail and email are checked daily.

**Crawford Memorial United Methodist Church**  
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